ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Presented with the Compliments of the

Children's Institutions Department.

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BOSTON
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BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
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Department of Children's Institutions,
Trustees for Children, Office of the Board,
32 Tremont St., Room B, February 1, 1899.

Hon. Josiah Quincy,

Mayor of the City of Boston:

Sir, — In accordance with chapter 3, section 22, of the Revised Ordinances, the Trustees for Children present their annual report for the financial year ending January 31, 1899, this being the second year of the Department of Children's Institutions and the forty-first of the Institutions Department.

Of the original members of the Board, Miss Emily G. Balch resigned and in her stead your Honor appointed on October 1, 1898, Miss Helen Cheever.

The members of the Board and the time of the expiration of their appointments are as follows:

Horatio A. Lamb, *Chairman*	May 1,	1902.
Charles P. Putnam, *Secretary*	"	1901.
Mrs. William J. Quinn	"	1901.
Charles V. Dasey	"	1900.
Mrs. Davis R. Dewey	"	1899.
John O'Hare	"	1903.
Miss Helen Cheever	"	1899.

During the past year sixty-two meetings of the Trustees have been held. The committees are as follows:

Committee on Finance. — The Chairman, Mr. Dasey, Mrs. Dewey.

Committee on Schools. — Mrs. Dewey, Mrs. Quinn, Miss Cheever, the Secretary.

Committee on Placing-Out Department. — The Chairman, Mrs. Quinn, Mrs. Dewey, Miss Cheever.

Committee on Releases. — The Secretary, Mr. Dasey, Miss Cheever.

For each month two members are appointed to be a visiting committee for the Parental School and the House of Reformation respectively.

THE CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE TRUSTEES.

There are now in the care of the Trustees 1,475 children. Of these 485 or about one-third are in (or in the care of) institutions, mainly in our own institutions and the School for the Feeble-Minded, while 990 or a little over two-thirds, are living in families (a few in their own or related families), scattered about in this and neighboring States, under the care and supervision of the Placing-Out Division.

Of the children in institutions, 176 are in the Parental School, the truant school of the city of Boston, 138 (counting 12 runaways) in the House of Reformation, and 171 in or under the care of various schools for defectives, or other institutions not under the management of the Trustees where children have been placed for various reasons.

Children at the Parental School have been committed by the Courts, for truancy only, on complaint of truant officers of the Boston School Committee. When their term of commitment has expired they pass out of the control of the Trustees entirely. Even before the end of their term of commitment a great many are, under provision of law, set at liberty under certain conditions by joint action of the Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools and the Court, and remain at liberty so long as they conform to the prescribed conditions, which generally include regular attendance at school in the district where they reside.

Children (boys only) at the House of Reformation at Rainsford Island are committed for various offences by the Courts, and are placed under the care of the Trustees either during minority, or for non-payment of fines, during shorter periods (thirty to ninety days). Boys who have been committed during minority are kept on the Island only so long as they appear to the Trustees and to the Courts to need the training and restraint of the school; after that they are allowed to go home on probation, or placed out in families, likewise on probation, if they have no fit homes, and are returned to the school only in case they misbehave. While on probation these boys are regularly visited by an agent of the Board.

The children in families, and therefore under the care of the Placing-Out Division, are (1) boys released on probation from the House of Reformation; (2) occasionally boys from the Parental School; (3) neglected children; (4) dependent children.

The neglected children are committed by Courts to the care of the Trustees, not as criminals, but because they have not received proper care from their parents or guardians. These children are very seldom disposed of otherwise than by placing them in families either at board or in free homes. They may, after a while, be returned to their own homes with the approval of the Court, when there is evidence to show that they will be no longer neglected.

By far the largest class of children are the dependents who are placed in the charge of the Trustees on account of poverty. Like the neglected children, the dependents are seldom disposed of otherwise than by placing them in country homes either at board or on indenture, until relatives or friends are able to take charge of them again.

For less than one-half of these (471) board is paid. The rest (519) are in homes where they are cared for without payment of board either because they can make themselves useful enough to pay their way (or even more than that, in which case they receive wages), or because the families who have them in charge are willing to take care of them out of affection, or with the intention of adopting them legally.

Formerly all dependent and neglected children were placed in the Marcella-street Home, which contained at one time nearly 400 children, boys and girls.

When the Home was placed in charge of the Trustees it contained 321 children. At the end of the year (January 31, 1898) there were but 160, and during the past year the number was steadily diminished until on November 22, 1898, the Home was finally closed, it having been found that all neglected and dependent children committed to the care of the Trustees could be placed at once in families.

The children under the care of the Trustees represent different religious denominations, and it has been the policy and is most earnestly desired by the Trustees that the children be placed in families of the same religion as their parents. It is the rule of the Board to have all homes recommended visited by one of the staff of the Placing-Out Division before it is approved.

The gradual reduction of population and final closing of the Marcella-street Home naturally increased the number of

placed-out children, but this increase is not so great as might have been expected. On January 31, 1897, the number of children under visitation, boarded and in free homes was 668; on January 31, 1898, it was 836; while the number now under visitation is 991.

The three classes established by law, juvenile offenders, truants, and uncared-for children (dependent and neglected) nearly correspond to the classes which we ourselves recognize, nearly, but not quite.

Among the juvenile offenders we recognize some that should properly be called neglected, because the offences for which they have been committed seem to be not deep rooted, but to be due to neglect on the part of their parents or guardians. We hold that such children should be reformed by placing them under good influences in respectable families rather than by placing them in a reformatory. Some of the truants, on the other hand, though technically convicted for truancy only, are really juvenile offenders, and the discipline of the Parental School, which should be mainly educational, is much injured by the influence of such boys.

What are the peculiarities of these various children that have placed them in their present position, and what can be done for them?

House of Reformation.

The juvenile offenders are, as a rule, the most lawless boys in the city; many of them have been brought up under weak parental control, and are grounded in habits of lying and deceit; boys whom the police have in vain tried to keep from disorderly ways, and who, sometimes after repeated trials on probation, have been brought into the courts as a last resort, generally on only one of the many complaints which might have been made against them. They have known little of good, and much of bad, influences. They are generally backward in school work, sharp at deception, ignorant of all higher pleasures, and unevenly developed in mind.

We aim to make them strong and healthy, to lead them to work and play with vigor, to become accustomed to regular habits, and to study with interest and energy. We try to place them in charge of officers and teachers whose object is to lead them to do their best work, to stimulate their intelligence and make them desirous of learning. The improvement of the boys in writing and mathematics is often very great, as also in drawing, manual training, printing and shoemaking. In the study of nature the enthusiasm aroused in

them is truly wonderful. They take great interest in their farm and garden work, and become more manly and self-respecting.

We aim to train them to lives of honesty, and as soon as possible to reinstate them in the outside social life, and there watch and guard them, and if necessary return them for another course of training in the school. We feel that the visitation of the boys out on probation is one of the most important branches of the work, and are hoping for valuable results from the regular and careful visitation which this Board has developed.

By a system of merits, and by grading them on a basis of behavior and effort at study, these boys when in the school know at all times how they stand, and feel that every effort brings its reward.

To do the best work for juvenile offenders the age should be limited, and children of different ages should be separated. Neither of these things has yet been accomplished, although some improvements in regard to the separation of the younger boys are in sight. It is also extremely necessary that boys committed for short periods (30, 60 or 90 days) for the non-payment of fines be kept apart from the boys committed for minority for more serious offences. This is to a large extent accomplished, but it is a deplorable thing, in the opinion of the Trustees, that these boys, sentenced for slight offences, should be made inmates of the House of Reformation at all.

PARENTAL SCHOOL.

The truants resemble the juvenile offenders in many respects, but the difference exists to a certain extent, and should be still more marked, that they have not fallen so much into lawless ways, except in the matter of neglecting school. They are, on the average, younger and more innocent boys.

As would be expected of truants they are hard boys to teach when they first come to the Parental School. Accustomed to roam the streets they have lost the habit of application, and have also fallen behind their proper grade in the public schools. Our problem is not only to make them study well, but to make them catch up with the boys of their own age, so that when they return to their families they will go back to school with enthusiam, and be placed in the grades where by age they belong. To accomplish this the Trustees find it of great importance to have the classes small, so that

the teaching can be more individual than in the ordinary public school. Several times parents of our boys have spoken of their great improvement in health, activity, scholarship and general character while in the Parental School. Unfortunately, the homes of some of the boys have not changed while the boys have been improving, and a certain number fall back from the same causes that brought them to the Parental School at first, and have to be returned to it.

Such an institution as a truant school is of especial value to the younger boys. The best work for these truant boys can only be done when all are really truants and nothing else. It is a great wrong to boys whose only offence is truancy to place them in an institution with those who are properly juvenile offenders. The school is not yet so carefully limited to truants as it should be, though there is improvement in this respect. For this classification and for the commitment of these boys at an early enough age to give promise of reform, the Trustees, must, of course, rely wholly upon the judges by whom they are sentenced.

Our first report, 1897, showed the imperative needs of the Parental School. The report of the Superintendent for this year lays an even greater emphasis upon the same needs. As no appropriation for the new permanent buildings of which we are so distressingly in need could be obtained, the question of erecting temporary wooden school-houses was under consideration during the whole year. Such buildings, one story high, would have been of great value, as the present school-rooms could then have been used for dormitories and the evils of crowding would thus have been lessened, but it was impossible to obtain a sum of money even for this.

In spite of the crowded condition of the Institution, notable improvements have been introduced. The number of teachers has been increased to six regular teachers, a sloyd teacher and a teacher of drawing and clay modeling, and the size of the classes has been cut down proportionately. The two large school-rooms have been divided in halves by temporary wooden partitions, to enable us to reduce the number in the classes to about thirty.

A little more room has been gained because the three truant girls were, one after the other, released. By a law of 1898, chap. 496, sect. 24, truant girls are now sent to the State Industrial School.

The boys have for the first time this year been furnished with winter underflannels, and with winter out-door jackets or sweaters. Efforts have been made to interest the boys in

various ways in the evenings. The making of a Christmas present by each boy to give to his mother or some friend at hand, was a special pleasure. Many boys talked far more of what they were about to give than of what they were to receive.

Among the improvements the chief is in the excellence of the schools.

Hitherto our teachers, though obliged to come up to the standard required by the Boston School Committee, have labored under the disadvantage that in case of a future appointment in the public school system, no account could be taken of previous service in the Parental School.

Last autumn the Trustees asked that teachers of the Parental School should be given the same credit for length of service as if they had served in the Boston public schools. This request was granted. This makes appointment at the school desirable to good teachers.

At the beginning of the year a teacher of experience, Miss Martha L. Rich, was engaged, and took charge of the schools until August, when the new Superintendent, Mr. B. C. Day, entered on his duties. We give later an abstract from her report.

Mr. Day began his duties August 1, 1898. He graduated at the University of Vermont, at Burlington, Vt., and passed one year at Columbia College, New York, as post-graduate student, and two semesters, one in Berlin, and one in Jena, Germany, in the study of pedagogy and psychology. He was both teacher and examiner of teachers for the County of Orleans, Vermont, for three years, and Superintendent of Schools at Southampton, Easthampton and Westhampton, Massachusetts, for four years, where he had twelve hundred children under his charge. From this position he came to us. His report after six months in office, is given later.

PLACING-OUT DEPARTMENT.

For those children who come as dependent or neglected children, generally young and free from bad habits, a good home in the country is the best cure, as has been said already. Formerly these children were placed, temporarily at least, in the Marcella-street Home, where the influences were intended to be as good as could be found in any large institution, but their great improvement, after they have been for a while in the healthy surroundings of a country home, has been noticed by every one who has had the chance of observing them.

To make all these thousand children as nearly as possible like boys and girls in the care of good parents is the aim of

the system, and on the whole the results obtained are most gratifying. To give each of them the nearest possible substitute for a good home of its own, is a work demanding energy, intelligence and judgment of a high order.

The agent's report gives an account of this work, but it is not easy adequately to describe what it means to make such work a real success. This distribution and supervision of children would be a failure, if it were a mere business transaction. The work must be done in such a way as to exert a constant influence on each child as an individual, to treat each as an independent being with virtues to be strengthened and faults to be overcome, with hopes and aspirations to be encouraged, and also with physical parts of great importance, eyes, ears and teeth, etc., all worth looking after like those of any other child in the land.

It is interesting to know that numbers of young men and women who have passed out of the care of the department on reaching majority still ask advice, and keep up intercourse with the agents who formerly had them in charge

Christmas was celebrated by sending to all the placed-out children (as well as to those in the institutions) a present suited to the years of each one, including 750 bright candy-bags filled with candy. (Cost of all $231.26.)

CHILDREN AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

One hundred and seventy-one children on the rolls of this department are in the care of other institutions, and are distributed as follows:

School for Feeble-Minded	104
Hospital Cottages	15
Boston Almshouse and Hospital, Long Island (including two babies with mothers)	4
Boston Insane Hospital	2
Worcester Insane Hospital	1
House of the Good Shepherd	3
Perkins Institution for the Blind	1
Free Home for Consumptives	1
Working Boys' Home	1
Home for Destitute Catholic Children	38
House of the Angel Guardian	1
	171

Since the Trustees came into office all feeble-minded children, who could be admitted, have been transferred from

the Marcella-street Home, or from families, to the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded. This is greatly to the advantage of the children, especially to those who are capable of attending school. During the past year the State has assumed the expense of fifty-three school cases, while the number of custodial cases for which the city of Boston pays board is fifty-one. Of the total sixty-six in other institutions, forty-nine are placed free of charge.

Comparisons of Admission, including Court Commitments, for the past Five Years.

	Dependent.	Neglected.	Truants.	Juvenile Offenders.	Total.
1894	298	36	69	48	451
1895	232	24	140	93	489
1896	275	29	167	75	546
1897	259	28	167	93	547
1898	187	37	190	126	540

February 1, 1899, Total now in Charge by Classes and Present Placing.

Dependent and neglected children:		
Boarding	471	
In free homes, directly in our care	374	
In other institutions	171	
Released to homes on probation	7	
Total		1,023
Truants:		
In Parental School		176
Juvenile Offenders:		
In House of Reformation	126	
Runaways	12	
Indentured in free homes, on probation	31	
Released to relatives on probation	83	
In House of the Angel Guardian	1	
Lost sight of	17	
Doing for themselves	6	
Total		276
Grand total		1,475

That there are many shortcomings in the various branches of the Children's Department work, none will of course doubt. Certainly the Trustees are more alive to them than

any one else. They feel confident, however, that the excellencies far outweigh the defects, and they think it best to detail what the department has accomplished with the general statement that much remains to be improved.

The Trustees feel the need of public interest in their work, and welcome intelligent suggestion and criticism.

The Trustees tender their sincere thanks to the physicians and dentists who have given professional assistance in various ways; also to a friend who placed at their disposal a sum of money which has been used for supplying charts of birds and other articles for the pleasure and improvement of the children.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The financial accounts of the Children's Institutions are published in the reports of the City Auditor, but the following tables have been made out as giving some details which are of interest.

PLACING-OUT DEPARTMENT.

Expenditures.

Board of children		$39,259 04
Board of children at Massachusetts School for Feeble-Minded (average number during year, 50 children)		8,055 59
Board of children at Hospital Cottages for Children (average number during year, 14 children),		2,269 72
Clothing and bedding		4,631 17
Medical and surgical supplies		1,301 92
Entertainment of children		134 14
Library and school supplies		87 24
Tuition		700 22
Rent, Charles-river estate		80 00
Transportation		4,6.6 37
Freight		351 37
Burials		50 50
Total		$61,547 28
Transfers of clothing sent to Marcella-street Home during the year	$129 27	
Transfers of clothing sent to Parental School during the year	196 58	
Transfers of clothing sent to House of Reformation during the year	404 09	
		729 94
		$62,277 22

Net expenditures of Placing-Out Division . .		$61,547 28
Estimated proportion of office expenses, expended on this division		8,000 00
		$69,547 28
Cost of board of children at Massachusetts School for Feeble-Minded . .	$8,055 59	
Cost of board of children at Hospital Cottage for Children . . .	2,269 72	
		10,325 31
Net expenditures for children in homes (free and boarding)		$59,221 97

Expense of Children placed out in Families, including Board, Clothing, Medical Care, Transportation and Schooling, not including Office Expenses.

Of the total number of children placed out in families the average number boarded during the year was 398.

The average cost of board per capita was	$98 64	
The average cost of clothing per capita was	10 53	
The average cost of tuition per capita was	1 76	
The average cost of office expenses per capita was	10 01	
		$120 94

The only items not included here are the items of schooling and transportation.

The average of children on indenture in free homes during the year was 394, for whom the only expenses were medical care and transportation.

The average number of children in country homes (both free homes and boarding homes) was, therefore, 792.

The cost of medical care for the total number was	$1,301 92
The cost of transportation for the total number was	4,626 37
The cost of board for the boarding children was .	39,259 04
The cost of clothing for the boarding children was	4,631 17
The cost of schooling for the boarding children was	700 22
Total	$50,518 72
Per capita expense of children placed in families, including these heads	$63 79

Average Cost, including Office Expenses.

Total expenditures for children in families . .	$59,221 97
Per capita total expense of children in families .	$74 78

Office Expenses.

Salaries	$8,965 22
Furniture	408 14
Printing	172 95
Advertising	84 78
Stationery	410 39
Postage	188 03
Repairs and office expenses	665 85
Telephone	109 65
Total	$11,005 01

Of the above amount, it has been roughly estimated that $8,000 has been expended on work for the Placing-Out Division, and the remaining $3,005.01 on work for the Parental School and House of Reformation.

In order to agree with the City Auditor's report, and show the same details, we have not charged in the table of itemized expenses to these three institutions, office expense to the amount of $3,005.01, which is only an estimated proportion of the office expenditures, expended upon work for the institutions during the year, apart from the placing-out work.

There should also be added the transfers of clothing sent from the Placing-Out Division during the year as follows:

Marcella-street Home	$129 27
Parental School	196 58
House of Reformation	404 09

Total and Average Expenses of the Whole Department.

Average number of children in Free Homes	394
Boarding Homes	398
On Probation	53
In Institutions	164
Marcella-street Home	81
House of Reformation	151
Parental School	172
Total average of children in care of the department	1,413

Total Cost of Department.

Placing-Out and Office Division	$73,282 23
Marcella-street Home	22,152 47
Parental School	29,293 00
House of Reformation	42,019 56
	$166,747 26

Itemized Expenditures at the Institution.

	Salaries: Supervision.	Salaries: Officers.	Salaries: Teachers.	Food (including Ice).	Clothing.	Bedding, Furniture and Upholstery.	Fuel and Lights.	Medical Supplies.	Library and School Supplies.	House and Laundry Supplies.	Laundry Work.	Repairs and Improvements.	Agricultural Supplies.	Water.	Printing, Advertising, Stationery and Postage.	Transportation.	Industries (Shoemaking and Printing).	Sundries, including Entertainment of Children, Religious Services, Burials, Freight and Insurance, Telephone.	Support of Children at Kindergarten for Blind.	Totals.
Marcella-street Home (only 9½ months)*	$1,068 23	$6,308 48	.....	$6,194 69	$1,177 23	$630 30	$3,128 86	$217 99	$17 30	$464 42	.....	$1,707 22	$37 25	$586 20	$73 58	$79 65	.....	$299 92	$161 09	$22,152 41
Parental School	1,533 30	7,208 37	$3,756 84	6,432 46	1,602 28	653 37	2,918 78	204 17	891 59	394 87	.....	1,728 44	909 92	595 20	153 35	61 05	.....	249 01	.....	29,293 00
House of Reformation	1,925 00	3,782 80	4,501 63	8,382 73	1,813 37	941 82	2,467 15	38 58	1,031 57	385 52	$857 32	11,422 58	327 40	200 00	145 49	.....	$3,363 81	432 79	.....	42,019 56
	$4,526 53	$17,299 65	$8,258 47	$21,009 88	$4,592 88	$2,225 49	$8,514 79	$460 74	$1,940 46	$1,244 81	$857 32	$14,858 24	$1,274 57	$1,381 40	$372 42	$140 70	$3,363 81	$981 72	$161 09	$93,464 97

Average Cost per Week per Child.

Marcella-street Home	.264	$1.558	.....	$1 529	.291	.155	.772	.054	.004	.421	.....	.421	.009	.145	.018	.020	.....	.074	.040	$5.469
Parental School	.173	.806	.420	.713	.179	.073	.326	.023	.100	.044	.....	.193	.102	.066	.017	.007	.....	.028	.....	3.270
House of Reformation	.245	.482	.573	1.068	.231	.126	.314	.005	.131	.049	.109	$1.454	.042	.026	.018	.....	‡.428	.055	.....	5.350
" "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	†.181	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	†4.077
" "	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	‡3.649

* In this table no account is made of the expenses of the office in Boston, as explained later.
† This is the average after subtracting the amount, $10,000, expended for permanent improvements at the House of Reformation during the year.
‡ This amount shows the average after subtracting, also the sum paid for Industries, $3,363.81 (expended for Shoemaking and Printing shops), the profit of which is returned to the City Treasury by sales made during the year.

Average per capita expense of total number of chilren under our care, per year	$118 01
Average per capita expense of total number of children under our care, per week	$2 26

On page 66 will be found a report of the Infant Summer Hospital, which is complete in itself.

Respectfully submitted,

HORATIO A. LAMB.
MRS. WILLIAM J. QUINN.
CHARLES P. PUTNAM.
CHAS. V. DASEY.
MARY H. DEWEY.
JOHN O'HARE.
HELEN CHEEVER.

REPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

To the Trustees for Children:

I have been in my present position one month. This time has been spent in becoming acquainted with my boys, with my assistants, and with the general conditions of the institution.

Even with the superficial knowledge obtained, it is evident that many changes are necessary, changes in the physical surroundings and care of the boys, in the methods of discipline, in the relations between boys and instructors, and, most of all, a change in the spirit of the boys themselves, a broadening of their outlook upon life, a growing sense of responsibility as members of society, more freedom from without, but more self-imposed restraint.

Any definite policy stated at present would, necessarily, require modification during the year. Any recommendations would be premature. Any events of the past year I am unable to record. I therefore submit the usual statistics, with the special reports of the heads of departments.

I desire to express my thanks to the medical staff of the Long Island Hospital, also to Dr. W. B. Lancaster, who has attended to the boys' eyes, and to Drs. E. A. Leonard and E. P. Wentworth, who have cared for their teeth.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN CLINTON ANTHONY,
Superintendent.

FURTHER REPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

As the present Superintendent's report covers only one month, the Trustees present the following additional report for the year ending January 31, 1899:

Historical Retrospect. — The House of Reformation was formerly situated on Deer Island, in close proximity to the prison for adult criminals. May 1, 1895, it was removed to Rainsford Island, into buildings left vacant by the removal of pauper women to Long Island. Rainsford Island and its buildings are even less suitable for a reform school than they were for a home for paupers. The main building contains a great variety of rooms and offices, the crowded dormitories of the boys, a printing-office, chapel, school-rooms, officers'

rooms, dining-rooms, kitchens, pantries, sanitaries, bath-rooms, store, office, clothes-rooms, etc. It is difficult to carry on the work of an institution in so ill-arranged a place. This is the only brick building. The additional structures are of wood, and, with the exception of the new school building, are in need of constant repair; nor can the greatest care give them an appearance of thorough cleanliness.

Improvements Needed. — For several years the necessity of proper location and buildings on the main land for the Reform School of the City of Boston have been urgently recommended, and in view of the importance of this work as affecting the entire community the Trustees wish again to urge that adequate quarters be provided, with buildings upon the cottage plan, and with sufficient land so that farming can be taught as one means among others to fit the boys for self-support, to bring them under new and wholesome influences. The following improvements in the inadequate quarters have been effected in the past year.

Additions and Repairs in Past Year. — In place of outhouses on the beach, unheated, and with no plumbing, a good system of plumbing and sanitaries has been put in. In place of a few old tubs a modern system of shower baths, with hot and cold water, has been introduced. Individual lockers, including well-ventilated clothes closets, for which each boy has his own key, have been built. New store-rooms have been annexed to the kitchen. A second boiler has been added, and a stand-pipe to supply drinking water has been put in. A wooden building containing three new school-rooms has been built and equipped. The old wooden building connected with the main building has been renovated, clapboarded and painted. The sloyd room has been enlarged. Chambers and a toilet-room for three teachers have been arranged in the Superintendent's house. The wharves have been rebuilt since their destruction by the storm of November last.

The Boys. — The class of boys in this institution, and the sort of treatment and training which may benefit them, are discussed in the Trustees' report. Among the improvements made this year in the methods of caring for them while in the institution are the following:

More bathing; more frequent change of clothing.

In place of sitting at tables which extended the length of the hall, as in the past, the boys now eat at smaller tables in groups of eight. The use of individual towels has been enforced to prevent the spread of eye and skin diseases.

The health of the boys during the past year has been good. Through the courtesy of the Pauper Trustees, all boys

needing hospital treatment are sent to the hospital at Long Island, where they have good care. A physician from this hospital visits Rainsford Island whenever called. Eyes and ears are examined by specialists, and the teeth of the boys have been cared for by excellent dentists, who visit the school.

The Trustees wish to express great satisfaction in the progress which has been made in the school department during the year. The following extracts are taken from the report of the head teacher, Mrs. Maud Gates Everett:

"In the winter of 1896–97 the staff of the school consisted of three men teachers. In the winter of 1897–98 two women teachers were substituted in place of two of the men teachers, but there still remained only three divisions in the school, and in each division there were more pupils than one person could well instruct and discipline; consequently, satisfactory results were not obtained. After the erection of the new school building, during the summer of 1898, the schools were regraded, the pupils better classified, and two new teachers were added, making five in all, besides the sloyd teacher. By this means the size of the classes was reduced to a maximum number of thirty. New courses were arranged, and the work laid out with reference to three facts:

First, a few boys when released wish to continue at school; second, the majority wish to find employment and will have no more school advantages; third, all of the boys have lived self-centred lives, and their scope of knowledge and thought has been limited.

We wish to open to the boys as many new avenues as possible during their stay at Rainsford Island, that they may go back to the world with broadened thoughts and interests.

For the boys who may wish to continue at school the grades are arranged to accord as nearly as possible with those of the Boston public schools.

Last year the course of instruction comprised arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, spelling and penmanship. To these have been added nature work, physiology, literature, drawing, color work, music, and in the highest grade, civil government. The boys take up these new subjects with great interest. Some who were well advanced in arithmetic, history, geography and grammar, knew practically nothing about drawing or physiology, and were equally ignorant of the life of nature. There are some boys whom we were unable to reach in any way until they became interested in natural science or drawing, and through these subjects the boy himself has been reached, and the better side of his nature developed.

The standard of teaching has been improved by ceasing to expect the teachers to do officers' work outside of school hours. In the meantime, the school session has been extended to five hours, instead of four, as in the past, and the teachers have also given two evenings a week to the boys, when they have selected library books for them, read aloud, or otherwise entertained them.

The following list of books was introduced into the schools this year, the fourth book of Stepping Stones to Literature having been used in the second division last year. With these additions to the books introduced last year the schools are now well equipped with modern text-books:

Readers:
- Stepping Stones to Literature. (Third, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and higher grade Readers.)

Geographical Readers:
- Carpenter's "Asia."
- Carpenter's "North America."
- "The World and Its People."

Arithmetics:
- The Werner Mental.

Language Books:
- Reed's Introductory Language Work.
- Reed's Elementary English Grammar.

Histories:
- English History. (By H. A. Guerber.)
- Fiske's United States History.
- Sheldon and Barnes's History.
- Mowry's "First Steps in the History of Our Country."

Geographies:
- Tilden's Commercial Geography.

Dictionary.
- High School (one for each pupil).

Language Books.
- De Garmo's Book I.
- De Garmo's Book II.

The following is a complete list of the text-books in use prior to the winter of 1897–98:

Of the following, there were not enough in any set for each member of the division; nor were they, as will be seen, the modern books now in use in the best public schools:

Third Division.
- Franklin's Readers, Second, Third and Fourth.
- Franklin's Arithmetic.
- Worcester's Spellers.

Second Division.

Warren's Geography.
"Child's History of the United States."
Franklin's Elementary and Higher Arithmetic.
Worcester's Speller.

First Division.

Franklin's Higher Arithmetic.
Warren's Geography.
"Child's History of the United States." Barnes.
Swinton's Grammar.
Worcester's Speller.
Smith's Physiology and Peterson's Civil Government were here, but apparently were not in use.

I append a list of the text-books introduced into the schools after September, 1897, when the Trustees first took charge:

Ward's

First Reader.
Second Reader.
Primer.

Geographical Readers.

Our World Readers.
Carpenter's "Asia."
Carpenter's "North America."

The World and Its People.

Views in Africa.
Asia.
Australia and the Islands of the Sea.

Geographies.

Werner's Introductory Geography.
Werner's Grammar-School Geography. Part I.
Werner's Grammar-School Geography. Part II.

Histories.

Thomas's History.
Mowry's History.
Eggleston's History.
English History.

A school library has been started. A few books of reference, the "Riverside Series" and other selections from the best authors, have been purchased, the aim being to arouse in the pupils a love for research and a love for the best literature.

Books of the School Library.

Riverside Library.

Miscellaneous Books.

Fairy Echoes.
United Voices.
Ten Boys.
Seed Babies.
Seed Travellers.
Insect Life.
The Children's Hour and Other Poems.
Tarr's "Elementary Physical Geography."
Jackson's "Astronomical Geography."
Nichol's "Topics in Geography."
The Earth and the Man.
Trotter's "Lessons on the New Geography."
Redway's "Teacher's Manual of Geography."
Redway's "Reproduction of Geography."
Little Daffy Down Dilly and Other Stories.
Fifty Famous Stories Retold.
Life and Her Children.
The Heart of Oak. (Fifth Reader.)
"George Washington." Scudder.
Plutarch's Lives.
Old Stories of the East.
The Story of the Chosen People.
Fairy Stories and Fables.
"The Elements of Botany." Gray.
"How Plants Grow." Gray.
The Arabian Nights.
The Fairyland of Science.
Gods and Heroes.
Seven Little Sisters.
Robinson Crusoe.
Story of Cæsar.
The Story of the Romans.
Old Greek Stories.
The Story of the Greeks.
The Story of Troy.
Each and All.
Story of Æneas.
The Heroes; or, Greek Fairy Tales.
Stories from the English.
Stories from Plato.
"The War of Independence." Fiske.
Chisholm's "Hand-Book of Commercial Geography."
Dole's "The American Citizen."
Fridtj of Nansen.
Stories of Great Americans for Little Americans.
Stories of American Life and Adventure.

Grandfather's Chair.
Bailey's "Physics."
Object Lessons. Part I.
Object Lessons. Part II.
Science Guides. 1–16.
Heart of Oak. Vol. I.
Heart of Oak. Vol. II.
Heart of Oak. Vol. III.
Heart of Oak. Vol. IV.

Sloyd classes are a regular part of the school course. The following extracts are from the report of the sloyd teacher:

REPORT OF THE SLOYD DEPARTMENT.

To JOHN C. ANTHONY, *Superintendent:*

I took charge of the sloyd in May, 1898. At that time there were four classes, of twelve each, taking the sloyd, each class having three lessons per week. The work was done outside of school hours, thus limiting some of the lessons to one and one half-hours. Early in the summer, six new benches, with equipment, were added, to make room for which several alterations were made in the sloyd room. The work was all done by the boys themselves, under my direction, and included many lessons in house carpentry.

Six classes of eighteen each were conducted during the summer vacation, each class taking three two-hour lessons per week. After the winter session of school began the number of classes was reduced to five, and the time to four hours per week. The classes were reorganized, each class being composed of boys from the same school grade, which made it possible to have the boys in sloyd during school hours. This arrangement has proven very satisfactory. The boys are in sloyd during school time about one hour per week.

There are now five classes taking the sloyd, each class having two two-hour lessons per week. There is room for ninety boys in these classes, as compared with forty-eight last year, but at present the membership is seventy-two, which includes all the boys in the schools with the exception of the boys in the Printing and Shoe Departments.

During the year a carpenter has been employed to do general carpenter work about the Island. The buildings are in such a condition that there is constant need of repairing and remodelling to keep them in repair. Boys from sloyd are always employed in this department as helpers.

The work of the sloyd classes is individual, each boy working independently, and receiving instruction as he needs it. Boys who begin the work together are seldom together after the first few lessons. The growth in power and development of the child is the measure of the value of the work done.

Since June 1 one hundred and thirteen boys have been in the sloyd, all of whom have shown the value of the training in a mental and moral quickening, which in some cases has been remarkable.

Respectfully submitted,

URBAN A. WALLACE,
Teacher of Sloyd.

The closing of the school last June was followed by a two weeks' vacation, after which a vacation-school was held for eight weeks.

The boys come to us with narrow interests. In the rudiments of education they are lacking, and many of them must devote much of their regular school year's work to the drudgery of reading, writing, and arithmetic in primary grades.

By means of a vacation-school the weeks of summer might be taken for a seed-time for new ideas.

Four science teachers were engaged, who entered on their work with an enthusiastic belief in the possibility of finding a real interest in something in the mind of every boy. Classes were held in chemistry, physics, sloyd, and mechanical drawing, botany zöology and music; and swimming lessons opened the boys' minds and hearts to the fact that the ocean all about them was intensely interesting aside from the possibilities of floating "escape rafts." Instead of listless play on the barren shadeless playground, which is all the Island affords, the boys spent hours of breathless interest wading in search of specimens for individual collections, and hunting for tiny flowers they had never before seen in the coarse grass and sand, or if discovered, had scorned as weeds.

Selection of boys for the different classes was made in accordance with the especial tastes of the individual boys.

All were required to abide strictly by the regulations laid down with reference to the handling of chemicals and apparatus, and their earnestness and real interest is shown in the fact that not one boy was deprived of the work on account of violation of these regulations, although there was much more liberty in this laboratory work than in any school work these boys had ever had.

The classes in mechanical drawing supplied hard work to some boys who had never learned the lesson of absolute

exactness, but it was interesting to watch the growing pride finally taken in the work by some boys who had never been reached in any other way.

The classes in experimental chemistry and physics proved valuable and interesting, and after three weeks one of the classes requested an additional hour of evening work. Instead of being interested in the steamboats, only as affording transportation to the city institutions, the boys studied and discussed their boilers, steam pressure, safety valves, etc. Although the knowledge of science to be gained in an eight-weeks' course must necessarily be limited, yet at the close of the vacation-school work the minds of many boys had been opened for the inlet of higher interests, which thus crowded out the lower, and the boys' unconsciousness of having worked for this interest placed it among the pleasures of their lives, and thus gave it a permanency.

It is the belief of the Trustees, which the teachers of the regular winter's course substantiate, that the sort of work done in this summer school reacted favorably upon all the studies and work of the next winter which might be called by most persons more practical. Here, as in all other schools where this modern method has been tried, increased interest and accuracy in other work has resulted.

Books used during summer of 1898:

Cooley's "Physical Science."
Williams's "Introduction to Chemical Science."
Gage's "Physical Science."

In the departments of industrial training the Trustees desire to keep it before the boys' minds that the finished product and its money value is *not* what is desired so much as the ability for perfect workmanship developed in the boy himself, and placing him by so much the nearer to manly independence.

The following are extracts from the department reports:

SHOE DEPARTMENT.

During the past year forty boys have received instruction in this department, a daily average of twenty-two. The degree of skill, which is attained to by the various boys, differs according to the ability of each boy and the time he is with us.

The work turned out by the boys is satisfactory, and shows great improvement. The boys take a greater interest in their work than heretofore. The result is much more and better work.

The aim of the work is to give the boys power, rather than to produce shoes.

We have recently put in a line of London lasts and dies. This enables us to make a shoe which gives much better satisfaction in every way.

I would recommend that an addition be made to the shop, and power be put in. With a few hundred dollars expended on machinery we could send out boys fitted to take positions in any shop.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Dr.

Value of plant, January 31, 1898	$1,519 77
Stock on hand, leather, findings, etc.	266 60
Shoes in process of manufacture	424 46
Shoes on hand, 651 pairs	469 50
Sole leather purchased	1,430 50
Upper leather purchased	1,067 76
Machinery purchased	64 24
Iron bottom lasts	50 97
McKay Metallic Fastening Co., wire, etc.	116 50
Inner soles and counters	57 58
Findings	279 14
	$5,747 02
Net income for the year	307 34
	$6,054 36

Cr.

Shoes and slippers sold:	
Boston Asylum and Farm School:	
398 pairs shoes	$327 40
24 pairs slippers	12 00
Children's Department:	
3 pairs shoes	2 80
W. G. Fancher, Topsfield, Mass.:	
29 pairs shoes	25 85
36 pairs slippers	18 00
Long Island Almshouse and Hospital:	
36 pairs shoes	38 70
186 pairs slippers	93 00
House of Correction:	
185 pairs shoes	148 00
Henry Stern & Co.:	
624 pairs shoes	309 34
Parental School:	
278 pairs shoes	252 60
410 pairs slippers	205 00
Carried forward	$1,432 69

Brought forward	$1,432 69
Cash:	
23 pairs shoes	28 00
7 pairs slippers	3 75
Rainsford Island:	
394 pairs shoes	395 25
233 pairs slippers	116 25
Shoes repaired	283 25
Shoes on hand, 772 pairs	748 00
Slippers on hand, 140 pairs	70 00
Sole leather on hand, 2,021 lbs.	379 19
Upper leather on hand	215 98
Shoes in process of manufacture	598 87
Value of plant, January 1, 1899	1,584 01
Shoes and repairing for officers	47 50
Findings	151 62
	$6,054 36

Respectfully submitted,

RUSSELL R. WALTON,
Instructor in Shoemaking.

REPORT OF PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

Forty boys have received instruction in this office during the past year, and the daily attendance has averaged about fourteen. I have been glad to hear incidentally that some boys who went out from this department are doing well at printing.

We have added to our stock of type and other working material. All our available book and news faces are on the point system, also a great many of our job faces, of which we have nearly 200 fonts. Three presses have received absolutely necessary repairs. Two new imposing stones (marble), and a new tablet press, for making blocks or pads, have been added to the plant.

The printing and publication of our monthly paper, the "Leader," occupies the attention of about half the force all the time they are in the office. An edition of nearly 600 is worked, and copies are distributed to the boys and officers of the institution, and also sent to the Parental School, and some to other Boston institutions and to various outside friends. Much job printing is also done for the Children's Institutions Department.

I wish to urge the importance of giving more time to this department of the industrial work than has been given during the past year, and that the periods of work should be

longer. One continuous session of, say four hours in the forenoon is worth a great deal more than five hours, divided into two or more sessions during the day.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Dr.

Value of plant, January 31, 1898	$1,900 00		
New type and stock purchased,	431 33		
Repairs on presses	89 73		
		$2,421 06	
Net income for year		1,029 44	
Increase in value of plant		100 00	
			$3,550 50

Cr.

Printing, House of Reformation, including publishing of the "Leader"	$653 25		
Printing, Children's Institutions Department	554 25		
Printing, Almshouse, and Hospital, Long Island	171 25		
Printing, House of Correction, Deer Island	61 50		
Printing, Parental School, West Roxbury	43 00		
Printing, Infants' Summer Hospital	42 00		
Printing, Marcella-street Home	25 25		
		$1,550 50	
Value of plant, and stock on hand January 31, 1899		2,000 00	
			$3,550 50

Thanking you, sir, for your support, and the interest you have manifested in this industry, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

GEORGE F. CLARK,
Instructor of Printing.

HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

Farm Report, 1898.

From June 1:

Apples (barrels)	6
Onions (bushels)	100
Beets (bushels)	105
Carrots (bushels)	130
Turnips (bushels)	30
Peas (bushels estimated)	10
Peppers (bushels)	2
Parsnips (bushels)	40
Tomatoes (bushels estimated)	20
Lettuce (heads estimated)	400
Cucumbers (bushels)	30
Corn, sweet (bushels estimated)	50
Cabbage (heads)	2,000
Celery (heads)	300
Squash (pounds)	2,000
Pork, killed (pounds)	5,031
Pigs (sold)	$25.50
Rhubarb (estimated pounds)	100
Chickens (were all lost in November storm)	50
Radishes (bushels estimated)	2
Hay (ton)	1
Eggs (dozen)	400
Milk (cans)	276

F. H. BOYD, *Farmer.*

MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

This system has been in use since May, 1898.

Each boy, on entering the Institution, is informed that he has to earn five thousand merits in order to get into the Honor Grade and be entitled to be released on probation.

For each day a boy "goes perfect" he is credited with ten merits.

For each consecutive thirty days a boy "goes perfect" he receives as a premium an additional hundred merits.

For each consecutive three months a boy "goes perfect" he receives as a premium an additional three hundred merits.

If a boy "goes perfect" for any four successive months he is at once placed in the Honor Grade, and is entitled to be released on probation.

Boys may be deprived of their merits or charged with demerits for various offences.

Officers are required to make all charges of offences to the Superintendent daily, and the Superintendent, after questioning the boy, adjudges and charges all demerits incurred.

The following is a list of some of the offences for which demerits are given:

Personal Appearance and Habits.

Boisterous.	Domineering.	Rude at table.
Careless.	Face and hands not clean.	Rude in manner.
Clothing untidy.	Filthiness.	Shoes untidy.
Disrespectful.	Noisy about the house.	

At School, Work and Play.

Absent.	Inattention at work.	Not on time.
Betrayal of trust.	Inattention in school.	Out of place.
Deceitful.	Inattention to signals.	Unfair.
Dilatory.	Incorrect position at drill.	Whispering in chapel.
Direct disobedience.	Incorrect position in line.	Whispering in dining-room.
Disobedience of rules.	Incorrect position in school.	Whispering in dormitory.
Disorderly.	Indifference.	Whispering in line.
Disturbance.	Neglect of duty.	Whispering in school.
Inattention at drill.		

Most Serious Offences and Moral Misdemeanors.

Creating disturbance.	Fighting.	Quarrelling.
Crookedness.	Lying.	Stealing.
Defacing property.	Malicious mischief.	Vile actions.
Dishonest.	Profane language.	Vile language.

It will be seen that the regulations governing the carrying out of this system protect both boys and officers, so far as possible, from misjudgments, as the officers must report in writing all offences, and the boy has an opportunity for explanation to the Superintendent before the latter charges the demerits. All boys having thus the same opportunity to obtain release through good behavior the Trustees are scrupulous in not doing them an injustice, and at the same time ruining the system by releasing boys on any other ground.

In the appointment of Mr. Anthony as Superintendent of the House of Reformation on January 1st, the Trustees feel that they have found a man well fitted for the work by nature and education. Mr. Anthony's past work has brought him into contact with the boy problem on many sides.

He graduated at Brown University in 1895, and was appointed principal of the high school at West Bridgewater. After that, for one year, he filled the position of Assistant Superintendent at the Farm School on Thompson's Island with marked success. From this he was called to New Britain, Conn., as the principal of the consolidated schools, and with charge of the lower grades. The Trustees induced him to leave this work to take up reformatory work, in which he has an especial interest. From his spirit toward the boys

and theirs toward him, and the executive ability already shown by him in the better organization of the institution, Mr. Anthony has already convinced the Trustees of his value in this work.

We desire most warmly to thank Rev. Fr. Brennan, Mr. Louis Cohen and Rev. Mr. Toulmin, as well as the Sunday-school teachers who have given religious instruction to the boys.

Attention is called to a report on page 51 (Placing-Out Department) on the condition and standing of the boys who have been released on probation from the House of Reformation, and who are now under the care of the Placing-Out Department.

TABLE NO. 1.

Showing the Number Received and Released at House of Reformation for the year ending January 31, 1899.

Boys in House of Reformation January 31, 1899 . .		159
RECEIVED.		
Committed on sentence for minority . . .	74	
for 30 days	28	
40 days	4	
60 days	4	
90 days	1	
Returned from probation	13	
Recommitted by court	2	
	—	126
Whole number in House of Reformation during the year,		285
RELEASED OR DISCHARGED.		
On probation at home	63	
indentured	42	
Expiration of sentence	22	
Fines paid	13	
School for Feeble-Minded	1	
Died	3	
In Concord Reformatory	1	
In Lyman School	1	
Out of State	1	
	—	147
Remaining in House of Reformation January 31, 1899,		126
Runaways		12
Whole number during the year		285

TABLE NO. 2.

Nativity of Boys Committed.

Boston	80	
Massachusetts	13	
Maine	1	
New York	3	
Pennsylvania	1	
Iowa	1	
New Jersey	1	
United States		100
Canada	1	
Nova Scotia	3	
Newfoundland	2	
British America		6
Russia	9	
Italy	5	
Germany	1	
Ireland	1	
Scotland	1	
Europe		17
Unknown		3
Total		126

TABLE NO. 3.

Showing the Number of Admissions and Discharges and Average Number of Boys for Each Month.

1898.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Average Number.
February	8	7	158.11
March	10	16	157.23
April	7	17	149.80
May	12	6	145.93
June	6	13	145.90
July	13	7	147.36
August	14	12	150.26
September	17	18	150.97
October	12	16	148.64
November	8	12	144.50
December	7	8	146.32
1899.			
January	12	15	141.00
	126	147	148.85

Largest number during year..... 163
Smallest number..... 138

This includes the 12 runaways.

TABLE NO. 4A.

Showing the Status of all Boys under Twenty-one whose Names were on the Books of the House of Reformation from May 1, 1895, to February 1, 1899.

In the House of Reformation			126
At home (57 are working for wages and 9 are attending school)		83	
Indentured		32	
For themselves		6	
Have been in penal institutions other than the Massachusetts Reformatory		8	
In House of Angel Guardian		1	
Lost sight of — this year	4		
*previously	13		
	—	17	
		—	
Total			147
Still legally in custody, but beyond practical control:			
Released to go out of State		7	
Left the State		6	
In the United States Army		2	
In the United States Navy		2	
Massachusetts Reformatory sent this year	7		
Massachusetts Reformatory sent in former years	3		
	—	10	
		—	27
Discharged from the care of this department:			
In Massachusetts School for Feeble-Minded		2	
Died		6	
Discharged to parents as unfit subjects		2	
Discharged fine cases		83	
Discharged at age of twenty-one		2	
		—	95
Runaways		12	
Returned to House of Reformation by agents	24		
Recommitted to House of Reformation by courts	6		
	—	30	
		—	42
			437

* In 1895 ten boys were placed on probation in their homes for a period of six months. At the expiration of that time they were doing well and were discharged to their parents. These boys were not subject to visits after their discharge, and are placed in this and the following tables under the heading "Whereabouts and Condition Unknown," but in every case when last heard from they were doing well.

TABLE NO. 4B.

Showing Condition by Ages of all Boys outside the House of Reformation, but subject to the Control of the Trustees.

Condition of all boys under twenty-one on probation January 31, 1899:

Doing well	110
Not doing well	12
Have been in some other penal institution	7
Out of State	12
Whereabouts and condition unknown	17
Total	158

Condition of boys under twenty-one on probation one year or more:

Doing well	41
Not doing well	2
Have been in other penal institutions	4
Out of State	5
Whereabouts and condition unknown	14
Total	66

Condition of boys under twenty-one on probation, two years or more:

Doing well	7
Not doing well	1
Have been in other penal institutions	0
Out of State	1
Whereabouts and condition unknown	10
Total	19

Condition of all boys under twenty-one on probation who complete their nineteenth year before January 31, 1898:

Doing well	16
Not doing well	5
Have been in other penal institutions	6
Out of State	5
Whereabouts and conditions unknown	5
Total	37

Condition of all boys on probation who complete their twentieth year before January 31, 1899:

Doing well	6
Not doing well	2
Have been in other penal institutions	0
Out of State	1
Whereabouts and conditions unknown	3
Total	12

Condition of all boys who complete their twenty-first year before January 31, 1899:

Doing well	1
Not doing well	1
Have been in other penal institutions	0
Out of State	1
Total	3

TABLE NO. 4C.

Visitation of Probationers.

Visits made by agents 456
(Of the 456 visits, 74 were to 31 boys over eighteen years, and 402 to 134 boys under eighteen.)

Whole number of names on visiting list for the year . . 165

Investigation of parents' homes by agents . . . 145

TABLE NO. 5.

Showing Age of Boys when Committed.

	Committed During Past Year.	Committed from Jan. 31, 1896, to Feb. 1, 1898.	Totals.
Nine	3	1	4
Ten	5	2	7
Eleven	13	11	24
Twelve	13	16	29
Thirteen	22	31	53
Fourteen	24	47	71
Fifteen	36	47	83
Sixteen	8	8	16
Seventeen	1	1	2
Eighteen	1	.....	1
Nineteen	.....	1	1
Unknown	.....	2	2
	126	167	293

TABLE NO. 6.

A. Showing the Length of Time the 147 Boys who have left the past year have spent in the House of Reformation since Committed.

3 months, or less, for non-payment of fines	37
4 months	1
5 "	1
6 "	2
7 "	2
8 "	1
9 "	3
10 "	2
1 year	1
1 year 1 month	6
1 " 2 months	5
1 " 3 "	1
1 " 4 "	2
1 " 5 "	3
1 " 6 "	3
1 " 7 "	3
1 " 8 "	5
1 " 9 "	2
1 " 10 "	3
1 " 11 "	2
2 years	3
2 years 1 month	4
2 " 2 months	3
2 " 3 "	3
2 " 4 "	4
2 " 5 "	6
2 " 6 "	2
2 " 7 "	4
2 " 8 "	1
2 " 9 "	3
2 " 10 "	7
2 " 11 "	5
3 "	2
3 " 1 month	1
3 " 2 months	1
3 " 3 "	1
3 " 4 "	3
3 " 5 "	2
3 " 6 "	4
3 " 10 "	1
4 " or more	7
	147

B. Showing the Average Time spent in the Institution for Three Years.

YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31.

1897	8.80 months
1898	13.66 "
1899	18.84 "

This table includes all boys released from this institution, either on fine, probation, or for any other causes.

TABLE NO. 7.

Comparative Table, showing average Number of Inmates, and Number of New Commitments, etc., for a period of Three Years.

YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31.	Average Number.	New Commitments.	Returned for any Cause.	DISCHARGED.					In other Institutions.	Out of State.
				Placed on Probation.	Reached Majority.	Fine Cases.	Died.	Error in Commitment.		
1897	114	74	3	42	.....	16	.....	.....	.....	....
1898	144	93	4	37	.....	20	2	2	.....	....
1899	148.93	126	12	105	.....	36	3	.....	2	1
Average for 3 years	135.64	97.67	6.33	61.33	.....	24	1	.67	.67	.33

TABLE NO. 8.

Showing Commitments by Months for Three Years.

	Year Ending January 31.		
	1897.	1898.	1899.
February	4	4	8
March	2	5	10
April	9	5	7
May	8	4	12
June	7	15	6
July	8	7	13
August	8	10	14
September	5	9	17
October	5	8	12
November	9	4	8
December	3	10	7
January	6	12	12
	74	93	126

TABLE NO. 9.

A. Showing the Average Age of Boys Released on Probation for the Past Three Years.

Year Ending January 31.

1897	14.24 years
1898	14.73 "
1899	15.04 "

B. Showing the Average Age of Commitment for the Three Years.

Year Ending January 31.

1897	13.51 years
1898	13.89 "
1899	13.50 "

C. Showing the Number of Boys Returned for any Cause for Three Years.

Year Ending January 31.

1897	3
1898	4
1899	12

TABLE NO. 10.

Offences with Sentences, of the 126 Boys Committed the Past Year.

	During Minority.	Thirty Days.	Forty Days.	Sixty Days.	Ninety Days.	Two Days.	Total.
Assault and battery	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
(1) Assault and battery, and (2) Throwing a snowball in a public street	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2
Being a vagrant	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Breaking and entering	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Breaking and entering, with intent to commit larceny	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
(1) Breaking and entering, and (2) Trespass	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Breaking three panes of glass	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Disturbing a school	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Disturbing the peace	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Drunkenness	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Larceny	40	9	3	1	.....	.....	53
(1) Larceny, and (2) Robbery	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Loitering around a railroad depot	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Returned from probation	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Receiving stolen goods	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Stealing a ride	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Stubborn child	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Throwing missiles at a railroad car	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Throwing snowballs in a public street	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Trespass	.....	5	.....	1	.....	.....	6
Unlawfully riding upon a car	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Violation of the City Ordinance	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Wilfully obstructing the free passage of foot travellers	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Totals	88	28	4	4	1	1	126

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF THE PARENTAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

To the Trustees for Children:

When I assumed the duties of Superintendent of this school, August 1, 1898, I found 188 boys, practically all in good health, under the care of nineteen officers and ten summer school teachers. Of the boys, 155 have since been discharged or released on probation, and of the officers, seven have gone out of the employ of the school. In all, twelve officers have been engaged. We seek to fill these offices with men and women who can manage boys in the right way by constantly appealing to what is noblest and best in them, who on the positive side can constantly inspire them to high aims and noble action, who in a word, as a result of their natural tendencies, education and experience, are no strangers to the atmosphere of thought to which we would introduce the boys, and who can be positively helpful toward bringing about the result desired.

Four teachers employed here last year continue their service, and four others have been engaged. In the process of engaging teachers, while observing the failures of well recommended teachers to do the work required here, I was confirmed in my previously formed opinion that for the special work of teaching classes of city truant boys, teachers of special talent and training are necessary. It must be remembered that in our classes not the ordinary half-dozen but all the pupils are in the main opposed to school at all or at least opposed to its discipline. The large majority by tradition and training have, upon general principles, little regard for authority and education. Many a teacher who might do ordinarily good work with the ordinary class is doomed to utter failure here. A cardinal principle with our management is that in the main the discipline shall proceed from and through the instruction. This sets the standard for teachers and leaves no place for police officers in our classes. The teacher must *interest* her class and so eliminate to a large extent the factor usually termed discipline. The vote of your board providing that our teachers shall receive the same salaries as those received by other Boston teachers of the same grade has enabled me to secure efficient teachers, and done much toward making the present high standard of

our class work possible. Owing to the large number of our boys and the limited class-room accommodations, I have been obliged, very much against my will, to allow the number of boys in some classes to rise above thirty. This fact, that of the temporary single board partitions separating four of the rooms, the bad ventilation and disturbing noise resulting therefrom, and the lack of desks in the two other rooms have handicapped us more than any one not a class teacher can fully appreciate. I desire to state that our teachers have without exception worked on with splendid courage and commendable indifference to the difficulties of the situation and produced results well worthy of better conditions.

DIFFICULTIES OF GRADING PUPILS IN CLASSES.

The difficulties of maintaining thoroughly graded classes will be appreciated when it is known that of the 175 boys in the school February 1, 1899, only sixty were here September 1, 1898. Many of those that have come to us have come from ungraded classes, are not really prepared for a particular grade, but are placed in that grade for the work of which they seem to be best fitted. Then as new boys enter, those who are best fitted for higher grades are pushed along; thus the average standard of the higher classes is being constantly lowered, and the work of those classes being continually broadened to cover more grades of work. If, however, we were to have only ungraded classes, while we should in the case of one or two classes get the advantage that comes from the continuous tuition of the same teacher we should lose much time that we now save by the graded plan.

I am persuaded that an ungraded class, in which new boys could be brought into condition for *some* grade, and other boys, slightly behind in some subjects, could be given individual instruction and helped along into the grade next above them, should be organized and placed in charge of the best teacher available.

LIBRARY.

By courtesy of the Boston Public Library, the Parental School is a regular deposit station, and receives books each month to be distributed to the boys.

The number of these books given out to the boys since September 1 is 1,074. Not every boy reads his book; some boys read very little of the book they take; but many boys take a genuine interest in reading, and gradually read themselves into a new atmosphere of thought. The Henty books

hold first place in the estimation of the boys. We need books for the youngest boys, for whom the library books are not adapted.

Occupations of the Boys.

About one-half of our boys are employed at the domestic duties, in the boiler house, barn, laundry, etc. Of the remainder, those big enough to do anything are employed at the outside work including gardening, raking, and clearing up, mowing the lawn in summer, and shovelling paths in winter. Believing the function of this school to be different from that of a trade school, I do not encourage the employment of a boy at any given "job" much beyond the time of his proficiency in that particular line of work. A boy is here taught to work not principally that he may do various kinds of work but that in learning how to do the work of different kinds, he may learn to be thoughtful, industrious, careful, faithful, honest, and helpful.

Outside Associations.

If the boys in this school go back to their homes with increased power for living properly they will owe that power largely to the fact that they have what the Germans call another and a better constellation of ideas. The new constellation of ideas must necessarily crowd out and displace or at least cause a rearrangement of the old constellation. Then our youngster must in many instances be kept as much as possible from his old associations. Frequent visits by parents are not encouraged — one visit each month being the allowance. Boys unattended by adults are not admitted. Certain boys are admitted under no circumstances. All visitors and all who write to the boys are cautioned against referring to the pranks or crimes of those in the circle of their acquaintance. Daily newspapers are tabooed. Important news items are given to the boys by teachers, and the "Great Round World," a boys' magazine, is read weekly.

Possible Modifications of Plan of Commitment and Support.

No less than one-fifth of the boys in this school to-day have been charged with or convicted of such offences as breaking and entering, picking pockets, petit larceny, etc. Several have previously been in reformatories. If this institution is to acquire and retain the characteristics of a truant

school exclusively, then in some way or other, provision should be made for those boys who have actually learned and practised the ways of criminals. Parents of boys who have been guilty of no other offence than that of truancy have a right to demand that their sons should not be compelled to associate with boys who are familiar by practice with the ways of common vice. It may be said that these embryonic criminals sent to the truant school should be segregated. The reply is that with present accommodations segregation is impracticable if not impossible.

It is my conviction that there are boys in this school by the choice of their parents. In part at least of these cases the parents are able to pay tuition. Certain parents have with an amusing naïveté confided to me that boys were considerable bother, that the Parental School seemed to be a good place and that they should send along another boy before long. Now if a parent will not or cannot keep his boy in the public school during school age, and is able to pay a part or the whole of the expense of his tuition at the Parental School, there seems to be no good reason for the city's undertaking the whole of the parent's duty.

In this connection it occurs to me that all of the boys committed to us appear to be getting something for nothing, or approximately that. This fact should incite us to bring about such a plan of commitment, and such methods of treatment after commitment, as will cleanse the system of any tendency to pauperize or make dependent the boys and parents affected.

THE LONG TERM.

While this is and should be distinctively a school, it must, from the nature of the conditions, to a great extent partake of the functions of a reformatory. While some of the boys committed to the Parental School come from homes that appear to be efficient and helpful, the great majority are heirs to an unsavory inheritance, the accumulation of several generations. It must be remembered that we have little if any hold upon the boys after they leave us. What we do for a boy we must do in the way of getting him to "change his mind." He has come from free conditions, is to go back to them; hence must be trained to live in free conditions and overcome them. The results of several generations of mistraining cannot be overcome by three or four brief months of correct training, however correct. The experience of the past tends to confirm this statement. The boy must have a chance to acquire and fix right habits of thinking, willing,

and acting. So I plead for the long term. This is not a penal institution, as some would regard it, and if not, then every possible condition should be provided to help it to discharge its function as a reformatory institution.

Needs.

When one approaches the question of the needs of the Parental School he surveys a prospect quite appalling. This is the situation: An institution equipped to house, feed, and properly care for less than 100 boys has an attendance of 175, with a certain prospect that the number will increase to more than 200 before the summer vacation. Owing to this crowded condition, there is not one proper school-room on the premises. To make room for the classes the cottages have been invaded, and a room which should bear the charm of sitting-room and study is taken for a school-room, and thus robbed of its charm as an assembly-room for the family. The classes in clay modelling are conducted in a basement, which is the only play-room of ninety-five boys. Two of the school-rooms are equipped with double desks, and two have no desks at all — tables being used instead. There is not on the premises an assembly-room in which all the boys can be assembled. Any one conversant with the handling of boys in numbers will appreciate this deficiency. About thirty boys, though in good health, are obliged to sleep in a building provided for the sick, viz., the hospital. In case of an epidemic this arrangement would be impossible. For about 100 boys there is no assembly-room whatever, aside from a basement or the school-rooms. About 100 boys are obliged to take their meals in the room designed for a bakery, or in the kitchen over the boiler-room, and to sleep in overcrowded dormitories in the school building. These boys, of course, do not have the advantages of family life which are found in the cottages where good manners and habits of neatness are more likely to be acquired. Owing to lack of adequate accommodations, we are at present obliged to use five storerooms, separated from one another by long distances. There is no reception-room for visitors except the Superintendent's office — one medium-size room — through which must pass all the business of the institution. On account of the lack of accommodations, several officers and teachers, in no way connected with the work of the hospital, are obliged to room in that building, and half of the teachers are obliged to room off the premises altogether. A swamp, believed to be rich in the germs of malaria — a fact which the house medical officer's report tends to substantiate — constitutes nearly

one-third of our land area. The institution manifestly needs at once three cottages for boys, an administration building, including storerooms, offices, an assembly hall (which could be used temporarily for a gymnasium), and apartments for officers. If additional cottages are to be erected, and the cottage idea fittingly carried out, land must be acquired to receive them. Each cottage should have sufficient room for development without interfering with the affairs of other cottages. It should have room for its own garden, playground and pets.

If the boys who now sleep in the school building be provided with cottages the whole school building will be available for classes. In that happy event certain modifications should be made in the arrangement of the rooms of the building. The rooms are now too large and not properly supplied with light. At moderate expense the front of the structure could be extended and changes made whereby the building would be transformed into a school-house adapted to its end, and equal to the needs of the school for some years to come.

There are other needs which, as compared with those already mentioned, are of minor importance but which I will simply name as follows: A new barn or the reconstruction of the old one upon the northeast corner of the grounds; a hen-house with capacity for 350 hens; a woodshed; a covered shed for open air exercise in stormy weather; the grading of the grounds.

The only general bath-room on the premises is in the basement of the school building, and is equipped with six tubs of the old and well-known type. Bathing 180 boys under these conditions twice each week consumes an unnecessarily large amount of valuable time of both officers and boys. To obviate the difficulties of the present arrangement, shower baths should be provided for in the basement lavatory of each cottage and if the school building continues to be used for a dormitory the shower method should displace the present method there.

By courtesy of the Bath Commission our boys were given special privileges of bathing last summer at the public bath located upon the Charles river at the corner of the Parental School grounds. It is needless to say that the boys enjoyed the privilege to its fullest extent. Many of the boys learned to swim. There were no painful accidents nor other undesirable effects.

CONCLUSION.

Reform schools for children convicted of various criminal offences have been long in vogue, but schools which children

must attend who do not choose to go to the ordinary school, or who, having gone, persistently disregard the rules of the school, are in this country comparatively modern. What has been done in other countries under other conditions, while furnishing us with hints, may not necessarily furnish us with a model. Not enough has been done in this country as yet to furnish from experience anything like a final solution of the problem of truancy. Indeed the truant school itself may as an experiment only demonstrate its own inexpediency. It seems, however, that under present conditions a good truant school is one of the most tangible and promising agencies available. Several points seem to be clear. The offence called truancy should not be classified with the common crimes, nor should its correction probably be sought by the same method, certainly not in the same place, as that employed for the correction of other offences. Truants should be trained to regard law and order but, above all, to like to attend a good school. The possibility of retaining a hold upon a truant for a longer period than about two years being improbable if indeed advisable, the aim should probably be, as already suggested, to cultivate in the boy the power to live in a condition of approximate unrestraint and overcome that condition. This aim calls for the least application of force consistent with the general good, and the greatest application of kindness and confidence at all consistent with the immaturity of the boys concerned. A new heaven and a new earth must be created for them by introducing them into new fields of thought and making them happily acquainted with a new code of morals and a new purpose of life.

As in former years, the Roman Catholic boys have attended St. Teresa's Church, and the Protestant boys the First Baptist Church of West Roxbury. Religious instruction has been given to the Hebrew boys by Mr. Louis Cohen, a missionary employed by benevolent organizations of his church.

The influence of these three agencies, affecting as they do all of the pupils, has been most beneficial to the boys.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the valuable services of the medical staff, and also of Dr. F. P. Barnard, who has given much attention to the boys' teeth.

Thanking you for your forbearing consideration and kindly helpfulness.

Most respectfully yours,

B. C. DAY, *Superintendent.*

ABSTRACT OF A REPORT ON THE SCHOOL WORK OF THE PARENTAL SCHOOL. BY MISS MARTHA L. RICH.

On January 31, 1898, four grade teachers and one sloyd teacher were employed. The maximum number of pupils under each teacher ranged from forty to sixty-eight.

The supply of school books was limited, the available books being Franklin arithmetics and readers, Higginson's histories, and Warren's geographies, with Music Readers and some Health Primers.

During the year both large school-rooms were divided by partitions, thus increasing the number of rooms and limiting the number of pupils in each to 35, or in one room to 25.

The supply of books was increased by the addition of history, geography, and nature readers, Redway and Hinman's geography, McMaster's, Montgomery's and Fiske's histories, with reference books for the teachers on birds, plants and various other subjects. A large number of blackboards was added.

This fall the teaching force was increased to include a supervisor, five grade teachers, and two special teachers (of sloyd, and of drawing and clay modelling).

We have tried to follow as closely as possible the Boston course of study and apportionment of time. The causes detailed below, however, have made modifications necessary. During this winter the boys have had two hours of sloyd, and one and one-half hours of drawing each week. The higher classes have also one hour, and the lower classes forty minutes per week in clay modelling.

Through nature work we have tried to open the boys' eyes to the world about them, and to make them love the birds and flowers. They have shown an especial interest in birds. It has been so arranged that teachers can see individual boys after school hours, in order so to gain a stronger hold upon them.

The grading of classes has proved a difficult problem. In the first place their membership is constantly changing, as boys are admitted to the institution or discharged from it. In the second place a large percentage of the boys come to us from ungraded classes in the city schools, while the majority of those from graded classes are below grade, and have no good foundation to build upon. Such boys cannot be taught in large classes. The teaching should be almost wholly individual. Our most useful work may, therefore, be in laying this good foundation, and in repairing weak places. The boys for whom this has been done may return to the

city schools not advanced in grade, though better fitted for grade work.

In many cases, nevertheless, we do succeed in advancing the boys to a higher grade.

Library. — For outside reading thirty books were formerly sent from the West Roxbury branch of the Public Library. Now we have a deposit of 200 books from the Central Library, fifty of which are exchanged each month.

Vacation School. — During last summer a vacation school, lasting seven weeks, held morning sessions for five days each week. The boys were arranged in twelve sections, to secure small classes. The subjects taught were music, drawing and color work, sloyd, clay modelling, cooking, gymnastics and nature work. The younger classes had paper work and kindergarten sloyd, and every boy had an hour's lesson in sewing each week. Weekly talks were also given in geography upon the general topic, "Our Country," with a view to lead the boys to become intelligent and loyal citizens.

Medical Report.

Dr. James S. Stone,

Secretary of the Medical Staff:

Dear Sir, — The general health of the boys during the past year has been good. There have been no infectious or contagious diseases with the exception of one case of typhoid fever which was sent to the Boston City Hospital and which made a good recovery. There have been, however, several cases of malaria which can be accounted for by the proximity to the river, and also by the unfilled swamps on the school grounds. It is hoped that the proposed filling of the swamps will diminish the number of cases of this disease.

The "Hospital" has received part of the medical supplies of the "Marcella-street Home" and, as a result, it is necessary to buy very few drugs at retail and the efficiency of the service is increased.

Since last August every boy has been subjected to a thorough physical examination. This is a very valuable means of discovering any abnormality which can be remedied such as poor eyes and ears, and which may have some bearing on truancy. It is intended that any physical defects be corrected if possible, and that the physical condition of each boy at the beginning and at the expiration of his term be kept on record. Although too few examinations have been made to be of value as statistics, a comparison of the average height

and weight of the "Parental School Boy" with the average "Boston School Boy" may be of interest.

Parental School Boys.					Boston School Boys.	
Age.	No. Examined.	Height.		Weight.	Height.	Weight.
		ft.	in.	lbs.	ft. in.	lbs.
8	2	3	10.6	48	3 11.6	53.9
9	10	4	3.8	53.2	4 2.5	59.1
10	9	4	3.2	63	4 3.6	65.1
11	25	4	4.3	62	4 5.3	70
12	23	4	4.9	68	4 7.1	76.7
13	24	4	7	70.4	4 9.2	84.6
14	13	4	7.7	78	4 11.8	94.4
15	3	4	9.4	79		
16	1	5	4	113		

The following abnormalities were found in the examination of one hundred and ten of the boys.

Ear:		Hernia:	
Perforated membrane	1	Umbilical	1
Suppurating otitis	6	Inguinal	1
Heart:		Vision poor	19
Enlarged	2	Undescended testicle	4
Hæmic murmur	4	Abnormality of septum nasi	17
Organic murmur	2	Scoliosis	14
Phimosis	12		

Besides the following diseases treated in the hospital a considerable number of minor complaints have been treated as out-patients. The average length of stay in the hospital was four days:

Anæmia	1	Malaria	2
Bronchitis	3	Myalgia	1
Blepharitis	1	Otitis	2
Erysipelas	1	Pharyngitis	9
Endocarditis	1	Pleurisy	9
Frozen feet	1	Septic foot	2
Gastritis	1	Sprained ankle	3
Indigestion	15	Subluxation radius	1
Influenza	8	Tonsillitis	13
Keratitis	1	Typhoid fever	1

MEDICAL STAFF.

Visiting Physicians. — Dr. C. F. Moulton, Dr. James S. Stone, Dr. Mark Richardson, Dr. Charles F. Painter.

Ophthalmologist. — Dr. William J. Daly.

Aurist. — Dr. H. B. Stevens.
Dermatologist. — Dr. C. Morton Smith.
House Officer. — Irving R. Bancroft.

Respectfully submitted,

IRVING R. BANCROFT,
House Officer.

PARENTAL SCHOOL, WEST ROXBURY,
February 1, 1899.

BILL OF FARE. — IN EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 1898.

Sunday.

BREAKFAST.	Oatmeal, with milk and sugar or molasses, hash, bread, butter, cocoa.
DINNER.	Baked beans, brown bread, pudding, bread.
SUPPER.	Gingerbread or buns, bread, butter, milk.

Monday.

BREAKFAST.	Baked beans, cocoa, bread, butter.
DINNER.	Roast beef, vegetables, bread.
SUPPER.	Oatmeal, with sugar and milk or molasses, bread and butter.

Tuesday.

BREAKFAST.	Hash or warmed up meat, bread, butter, cocoa.
DINNER.	Mutton stew, with vegetables, pudding, bread.
SUPPER.	Brown bread, sauce, milk, bread, butter.

Wednesday.

BREAKFAST.	Fried mush, molasses, bread, butter, milk.
DINNER.	Corned beef, vegetables, bread.
SUPPER.	Gingerbread or buns, bread, butter, milk.

Thursday.

BREAKFAST.	Hash or corned beef, bread, butter, cereal coffee.
DINNER.	Roast beef or meat pie, with vegetables.
SUPPER.	Rice or hominy, with milk and sugar or molasses, bread, butter, milk.

Friday.

BREAKFAST.	Oatmeal, with sugar, milk or molasses, bread, butter, cocoa.
DINNER.	Fresh or salt fish, vegetables, bread, pudding.
SUPPER.	Bread, butter, cracked wheat, milk, sauce.

Saturday.

BREAKFAST.	Fish hash or fishballs, bread, butter, cereal coffee.
DINNER.	Pea soup or bean soup, meat pie, bread.
SUPPER.	Corn mush, molasses, bread, butter, milk.

TABLE NO. 1.

Showing Number of Boys in the School at Beginning and End of Year, and Number Received into the School and sent out from it during the Year.

Boys in School February 1, 1898		169
" committed during the year		189
" returned from probation during the year . . .		13
" discharged during the year	162	
" released on probation during the year . .	34	
" in School February 1, 1899	175	

TABLE NO. 2.

Showing Number Committed, Discharged, Released on Probation and Returned from Probation for Four Years.

	Committed.	Discharged.	Released on Probation.	Returned from Probation.
1895-96	140	1	4	.....
1896-97	167	113	39	.....
1897-98	177	101	57	.....
1898-99	189	162	34	13

TABLE NO. 3.

Showing Number Committed, Discharged, Released on Probation and Returned from Probation for the Year, by months.

	Committed.	Discharged.	Released on Probation.	Returned from Probation.
February	17	5	10	1
March	22	6	6	3
April	9	22	5	4
May	21	17	1	2
June	15	4	2	2
July	1	.....	.....	.....
August	.....	6	1	.....
September	2	37	4	.....
October	47	33	3	*1
November	21	15	2	.....
December	13	9	.....	.....
January	21	8	.....	.....
Total	189	162	34	13

* From City Hospital.

TABLE NO. 4.

Showing Average Attendance for the Year.

February	169
March	181
April	180
May	172
June	183
July	187
August	185
September	164
October	140
November	156
December	159
January	167
Average daily attendance for the year	170 .73

TABLE NO. 5.

Showing Length of Time spent in the School by Boys Discharged and Released during Year ending January 31, 1899.

Three months or less	12	Eleven months or less	7
Four " " "	6	Twelve " " "	69
Five " " "	3	Fourteen " " "	1
Six " " "	27	Fifteen " " "	1
Seven " " "	4	Sixteen " " "	1
Eight " " "	6	Eighteen " " "	6
Nine " " "	8	Twenty-four months or less	35
Ten " " "	10		

Average time for 196 boys, 12 months 5 days.

TABLE NO. 6.

Showing Age of Boys at Commitment, for Four Years ending January 31, 1899.

	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.
7 years	.....	1	.....	.....
8 "	2	4	7	8
9 "	9	17	16	19
10 "	16	24	30	22
11 "	30	43	38	44
12 "	32	30	38	41
13 "	40	38	34	42
14 "	10	7	14	8
Age unknown	1	3	.....	5
Average age	11y. 8m. 21d.	11y. 3m. 25d.	11y. 4m. 9d.	11y. 4m. 6d.

TABLE NO. 7.

Showing Number of Boys Committed during the Year from each of the Districts of the City.

Central District	92	East Boston	9
South Boston	33	Charlestown	7
Roxbury	32	West Roxbury	5
Dorchester	10	Brighton	1

TABLE NO. 8.

Showing place of Birth of Boys Committed during the Year.

Boston	102	Russia	11
Elsewhere in Massachusetts	12	Italy	7
New York	9	Ireland	4
Rhode Island	3	England	4
Maine	2	Nova Scotia	4
New Hampshire	2	Arabia	2
Pennsylvania	2	Australia	2
Michigan	1	Germany	2
Maryland	1	New Brunswick	2
U.S.A.	1	France	1
		P. E. Island	1
Total	135	Scotland	1
		Total	41

Unknown 13

TABLE NO. 9.

Showing Parental Relations of Boys Committed during the Year.

Boys, both of whose parents were living	127
" whose father only was living [Of these, two had a stepmother.]	21
" whose mother only was living [Of these, nine had stepfathers.]	34
" neither of whose parents was living [Of these, one had both stepfather and stepmother.]	6
Unable to give account of parents	1

THE LAUNDRY.

Before November last, our laundry was doing between 6,000 and 7,000 pieces per month. Most of the officers' fine work was sent to outside laundries at owner's expense. One woman, assisted by the relief matron when possible, and by five or six boys, did the work. Since the first of November all the inmates' work and practically all the officers' work, both flat and fine, of both the House of Reformation and the Parental School, has been done here. The number of pieces now done each month is nearly 20,000. A man and two women are employed all the time, and one woman by the day about eight days of the month. Employment is given

to twelve boys. During the months of November, December and January 23,352 pieces were done for the House of Reformation, for which a charge of $719.10 was made.

The expenses of the laundry for the same months were as follows:

Employees (including a fair share of the engineers' salaries and reckoning board when furnished)	$567 00
Soap and supplies (including some permanent additions to plant)	165 21
Repairs	36 60
Coal (estimated)	130 00
Gas (estimated)	60 00
Deterioration of machinery	45 00
	$1,003 81

PRODUCTS OF THE FARM.

Apples (barrels)	15
Asparagus (bunches)	40
Beans (bushels)	21
Beans, pole (bushels)	1½
Beets, early (bunches)	250
Beet greens (bushels)	2½
Beets (bushels)	8¼
Cabbage (heads)	45
Corn, sweet (ears)	8,496
Cucumbers	960
Lettuce (heads)	1,050
Onions, early (bunches)	200
Onions (bushels)	2½
Parsnips (bushels)	6½
Peas (bushels)	12½
Potatoes (bushels)	55
Radishes (bunches)	413
Rhubarb (pounds)	153
Sage (bushels)	1
Salsify (bushels)	1
Spinach (bushels)	3
Strawberries (quarts)	400
Tomatoes (bushels)	3
Turnips (bushels)	4½
Hens	75
Pork (pounds)	1,600
Fowl (pounds)	150

REPORT OF THE GENERAL AGENT OF THE PLACING-OUT DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1899.

To the Trustees for Children:

For many years the city has successfully pursued the plan of placing its minor wards in families under indenture, agreement or adoption, when their own home influences and surroundings were of such a character that their removal was conducive to the child's best interests. These minor wards consist of three classes, viz.: Dependent children and neglected children (these being boys and girls who, from poverty and neglect, are committed to your care), and juvenile offenders (boys) released on probation from the House of Reformation.

INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RELEASE AND ADMISSION.

Release.

Full minutes of the investigation of applications for the release of children under your care in the several institutions are preserved in the files of the agency as vouchers to support the reports that are made. They include the investigations made on applications from parents or friends for the release of children from the Parental School, House of Reformation, Marcella-street Home and the Boarding-Out Division. They are important, because they relate to the vital question of release of children under discipline and instruction.

Applications for Release to Parents or Friends Received and Investigated.

	Applications.	Granted.	Refused.	Under Consideration.
Dependent children....	183	123	58	2
Neglected children.....	42	7	33	2
Parental School children	100	38	62	—
Total.....	325	168	153	4

The investigation of the families of all children that have been in the custody of this department for two years and over, and for whose release application has not been made by relatives and friends, has been undertaken. Out of twenty cases thus far investigated, four children were returned to their parents, or to relatives, by order of the Trustees.

Admission.

Applications for the admission of dependent children are made at the office. It is our intention to have them carefully and thoroughly investigated. Much time is given to some of them. The home of the applicant is in every case visited by an agent or visitor, and the clergy, private and public charitable societies, and others having knowledge of the family in the case, are interviewed. The agent then reports on the advisability of receiving or refusing to admit the child.

Investigation and Disposal of Applications for Admission.

	Settlement in Boston.	Settlement not in Boston.	Settlement not Obtained.	Totals.
Admitted to care of this department	187	.....	.....	187
Sent to State Almshouse	.....	162	.....	162
Sent to Boston Almshouse, with mother	16	1	.....	17
Withdrawn	44	23	.....	67
Referred to Overseers of Poor of Boston	16	21	.....	37
Referred to Overseers of Poor elsewhere	.....	10	.....	10
Referred to Children's Aid Society	5	3	.....	8
Sent to St. Mary's Infant Asylum	2	.....	.....	2
Not referred	.....	5	33	38
Total	270	225	33	528

Number of Dependent and Neglected Children Admitted to Care of the Department during the Year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Dependent children	95	92	187
Neglected children	19	18	37
Total	114	110	224

Of the 224 dependent and neglected children admitted to the Placing-Out Department during the year the domestic condition was as follows:

	Dependent.			Neglected.			Grand Total.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Had parents	61	50	111	14	10	24	135
No parents	1	1	2	....	....	....	2
Father	17	12	29	3	4	7	36
Mother	19	25	44	3	3	6	50
Stepfather	....	....	.....	2	2	4	4
Stepmother	1	....	1	1	....	1	2
Father sick or disabled	3	7	10	2	2	4	14
Mother " " "	10	20	30	6	4	10	40
Both parents sick or disabled	2	....	2	....	....	....	2
Head of family out of employment	23	13	36	1	....	1	37
Intemperate father	23	25	48	9	9	18	66
" mother	3	2	5	....	1	1	6
Both parents intemperate	3	4	7	5	5	10	17
Parents separated	22	12	34	3	3	6	40
Members of family had been arrested,	22	15	37	9	7	16	53
Parents known to have received other charitable aid	69	61	130	7	7	14	144

Nativity, Parent Nativity (Father) and Race of Dependent and Neglected Children Received during Year.

	Dependent.	Neglected.
NATIVITY OF CHILDREN.		
Native born	184	36
Foreign born	2	1
Unknown	1	
White	172	31
Colored	14	6
NATIVITY OF FATHER.		
Native born	46	6
England	16	
Scotland	3	
Ireland	19	13
Germany	1	
Canada and Provinces	11	5
Italy	8	
Russia	9	1
Poland	....	....
Other	8	1
Unknown	66	11

Total Number of Investigations during Year.

For admission	419
Of boarding homes	260
Of free homes	125
For release from House of Reformation (parents' homes),	145
" " " Parental School, on probation (parents' homes)	100
For release from Parental School, expiration of sentence (parents' homes)	159
For release from Marcella-street Home and Placing-Out Department (parents' homes)	225
For adoption and guardianship	10
For return to House of Reformation from probation	10
Total	1,453

BOARDING HOMES.

The boarding out of all indigent and neglected children in families in country towns was the cause of the closing of the Marcella-street Home in November last. Great care has been used in selecting boarding places, and no child was placed where the few dollars maintenance money obtained was apparently the only object in taking the child. It has been proved that these children need the influence of a good home in some respectable family more than the discipline of an institution. They are introduced into families of which they become a part; they are brought into contact with persons willing to lend a helping hand, thereby fitting them for usefulness by family training. Should the child be one for whom we are temporarily caring on account of the misfortune of the parents, the training he would receive while boarding could not fail to be beneficial. We can easily procure the child when the parents are in a proper condition to receive him.

Number of Children at Board in Different States.

LOCATION.	Number of Towns.	Number of Children.
Massachusetts	85	453
New Hampshire	6	16
Other States	1	2
Total	92	471

Total number of towns in which children are placed to board	92
Greatest number of children boarded in any one town	39
Average number of children boarded in one town	5
Number of towns containing over five children	25

Number of Children at Board during the Year.

In families	633
In other institutions	176
Total	809

FREE HOMES FOR CHILDREN.

In seeking free homes for children it has been our purpose to select those that would be permanent. It works badly to change places often, and the child who is shifted from one family to another acquires no affection for either, and finds no place it can call home.

Unless adopted he is placed on condition that he shall receive wages for his services when competent, and the right is reserved to remove any child and place him elsewhere if said conditions are not complied with. Many, however, are allowed to remain without compensation when educational advantages or other inducements are offered.

Each child, whether at board or indentured, is required to attend school as the law requires.

(See paragraph No. 2, directions to persons having children on indenture, and paragraph No. 4, ditto, at board.)

Many of the indentured boys and girls have accumulated savings varying in amounts from ten to two hundred dollars, which have been deposited in savings banks. The total amount to their credit January 1, 1899, was $2,842.

VISITATION.

The requirements in reference to the visitation of children are that every child supported by the city outside of its institutions, or who has been indentured or placed in the temporary charge of any person by authority, shall be visited by an agent of this department, those for whom board is paid, every six weeks, and those on indenture, every quarter, and oftener if necessary.

All of the visitors are given a list of children with whom they may become intimately acquainted. They make a written report of each visit to the General Agent, who in

turn presents it to the Trustees for inspection. All such reports are kept filed with the child's history and record in an individual envelope.

Ages of Children Boarding in Families.

	Dependent.			Neglected.			
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Under one year	5	8	13	....	....	....	
" three and over one	18	22	40	2	1	3	
" five and over three	21	33	54	2	5	7	
" ten and over five	104	56	160	17	24	41	
" twelve and over ten	48	13	61	5	9	14	
" fifteen and over twelve	25	16	41	8	9	17	
Over fifteen	5	8	13	3	4	7	
Total	226	156	382	37	52	89	
Grand total			382			89	471

The only way of learning the exact condition of a child so placed is by personal visits. The purpose is to obtain a watchful care over the young children placed in families, and see that in all cases those who assume control over them are held to a strict accountability for the treatment of the child. Agents are instructed to hold private interviews with children whenever they deem it necessary. By frequent visits and correspondence the agency is kept constantly informed of their condition.

When visits are made during school hours the visitor calls at the school as well as at the home in which the child is placed, interviewing both teacher and child.

The pastor of the family or of the locality in which a child resides is visited when necessary to obtain information.

Whole Number Subject to Visitation January 31, 1899.

Indentured	405
At board in families	471
Home on probation	115
Total	991

Visitations.

A. VISITS TO CHILDREN.	AT BOARD.		IN FREE HOMES.		ON PROBATION.		Total.
	Under 3 years.	Over 3 years.	Under 3 years.	Over 3 years.	Truants.	Juvenile Offenders.	
Number of visits during year	557	4,606	.....	1,834	.....	176	6,997
Average number of visits received by each child during the year	9—	8+	.....	4+	.....	4+	

Schooling of Children.

Number of children boarding, in regular attendance at school		349
Number of children in free homes in regular attendance, including those at home on probation		507
Total attending school regularly		856
Number of children in school		856
Number of children not in school:		
Under school age	104	
Over school age	54	
Mentally unfit	6	
Physically unfit	4	
Transitional	5	
	—	173
Total		1,029

Some of the advantages derived by children placed in country schools are: Mingling with children who are not institution children, and the influence of such children upon their characters and dispositions; the broadening influence on the mind of such associations as contrasted with the confinement and discipline of the institution.

See blanks, paragraphs Nos. 2 and 4, as to the amount of time children are required to attend school.

Number of Children in a Home.

	Boarding.	Free.
Number of homes with one child	86	403
" " " " two children	101	14
" " " " three children	38	4
* " " " " four children	5	
† " " " " five children	2	
" " " " over five children	5	
Total	237	421

* Of the five homes with four children, three had one child each temporarily placed there for a few days.

† Of the two homes with five children, one had two children, the other three children, placed there temporarily for a few days.

Number of Families with Children Related.

	Boarding.	Free.
Number of homes with two children	57	8
" " " " three children	11	3
" " " " four children	2	
Total	70	11

Of the five homes with over five children, the following may be said: These homes have been established in the country for those children who need special care or training. In none of these does the number of children exceed eight at any one time, and a less number is preferred. In one of these homes, consisting of two houses with land adjoining, one house has been occupied by big girls, defective in intellect or hard to control, who remain there temporarily, or until a private home adapted to their needs is found. Girls waiting admission to the School for Feeble-Minded, or to other institutions, are retained here until a vacancy occurs. In the other of these two houses are placed delicate infants and other young children needing special care. No boys over three years of age are placed in this home. Each child occupies a separate bed, and the older girls separate rooms. Those of school age, not mentally deficient, attend school, and each girl is taught to do different branches of light housework.

Another home near the city is used for those children of both sexes, who need out-treatment at hospitals, or individual care at home, which they obtain under a trained nurse. All children with contagious skin diseases are placed to board in families where only children of that class are cared for. In these homes the children are under medical treatment, and particular attention is given to their diet and cleanliness.

HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

Minority inmates of the school are retained in the institution until they have obtained the "Honor Grade." The term of detention has varied from one to three years. When an inmate has reached the "Honor Grade," and has been released from the school on probation, he goes into the care of the Placing-Out Division. The home of his parents or relatives is visited by an agent of the department before his release, and a report is made on the character of the home or the place proposed for him, and if it is considered undesirable, a home and employment are found for him elsewhere, or he is indentured in the country. By the terms of his commitment he is subject to recall for any violation of his probation, and it is required that he be kept under strict supervision during the remainder of his term.

Some of the best results of our work with this class of boys are least conspicuous. Those who become successful and good citizens do not publish the fact that they are graduates of a reform school, but the city gets the benefit of their good character, even if the school does not get the credit.

A more detailed account of this branch of the work will be found in the report of Agent Hosmer on page 64.

Location of Indentured Children.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Massachusetts	178	124	302
New Hampshire	51	27	78
Maine	25	7	32
Vermont	11	–	11
Rhode Island	5	4	9
Connecticut	3	–	3
New York	1	1	2
New Jersey	–	1	1
Canada and Provinces	2	3	5
Total	276	167	443

Total number of townships in which children are placed on indenture	156
Greatest number of children placed in any one town (Boston)	51
Average number of children placed in one town	3
Number of towns containing over five children	12

Ages of Children in Free Homes.

	Dependent.			Neglected.			Juvenile Offenders.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	
Under one	.....	...	.....	.....	....	.....	.....	....
" three and over one	1	....	1	.....	....	.....	.....	....
" five and over three	.....	1	1	.....	....	.....	.....	...
" ten and over five	9	20	29	5	11	16	.....	....
" twelve and over ten	8	13	21	4	13	17	1	....
" fifteen and over twelve	41	23	64	33	15	48	5	....
Over fifteen	60	34	94	62	59	121	25	....
Total	119	91	210	104	98	202	31	....
Grand total	.....	....	210	.....	....	202	31	443

Indentured (for First Time) during the Year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
From Marcella-street Home	14	1	15
Boarding Homes	10	19	29
House of Reformation	29	–	29
Total	53	20	73

Ages of Children Indentured during the Year.

AGE.	BOYS.			GIRLS.		Total.
	H. of R.	Neglect.	Dependent.	Neglect.	Dependent.	
3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
5	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
6	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
7	.....	1	2	.....	1	4
8	.....	.....	1	1	.....	2
10	.....	.....	1	2	.....	3
11	2	1	3	1	3	10
12	.....	1	4	.....	3	8
13	1	1	2	1	1	6
14	5	1	3	1	1	11
15	4	1	1	.....	.....	6
16	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
17	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
18	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
19	1	.....	1	.....	.....	2
20	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	29	6	18	7	13	73

Transfers during the Year.

Boys	518
Girls	467
Total	985

Of these, ninety-four were of indentured children, and divided as follows:

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
From indenture to indenture	36	14	50
From indenture to boarding	7	37	44
	43	51	94

Discharged during the Year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
From Marcella-street Home	16	8	24
From indenture	57	41	98
From boarding	77	48	125
	150	97	247

Discharged from Indenture during the Year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Arrived at age	34	22	56
Given time	4	.....	4
Absconded, and not yet located	2	.....	2
Discharged to friends	4	5	9
Discharged to guardian	.....	1	1
Adopted	.....	7	7
Married	1	5	6
Died	.....	1	1
Returned to House of Reformation	7	.....	7
Discharged to other institutions	2	.....	2
Family removed, and not located	1	.....	1
Enlisted in United States Army or Navy	2	.....	2
Totals	57	41	98

Of the fifty-six discharged at majority one was in college, one was a graduate of an academy, one of a high school, sixteen of grammar schools, twenty-nine had attended grammar school but had not graduated, and of eight the amount of schooling received was unknown.

The following is a list of the present condition of the girls and boys who have been discharged from indenture during the year:

GIRLS.

Housework	13
Dressmaker	1
Nurse	1
Upholsterer	1
Clerk	1
Mill operator	1
Preparing for teachers	3
Attending college	1
Returned to parents	1
Book-keeper	1
School teacher	1
Attending school	8
Died	1

BOYS.

Waiter	1
United States army	2
Machinists	2
Farm workers	18
Carpenters	2
Shoecutter	1
Shoemakers	3
Insurance agent	1
Porters	3
Messenger boy	1
Painter	1
Milkman	1
Teamsters	2
Salesman	1
Street Department, city	1
Clerk	1
Blacksmiths	3
Mill operator	1
Returned to friends	1
Harnessmaker	1
Newsdealer	1
Printer	1
Attending school	3
Returned to House of Reformation	7
To other institutions	2
Unknown	3
Total	98

HEALTH.

The health of the children has been excellent, and but six deaths have occurred during the year, as follows:

Born.	Admitted.	Died.	Age at Death.	Cause of Death.	In care of Department.
April 9, 1898,	May 16, 1898,	Aug. 22, 1898,	4 months,	Cholera infantum.....	3 months
June, 1898,	July 12, "	Sept. 2, "	3 "	Cholera infantum.....	1-20/30 months
June, 1884,	May 6, 1893,	Oct. 26, "	14 years...	Acute tuberculosis..... ..	5-5/12 years
Sept. 13, 1897,	Nov. 16, 1898,	Nov. 23, "	14 months,	Valvular disease of heart,	8 days
Nov. 28, 1897,	" 19, "	Jan. 1, 1899,	13 "	Convulsions...	1-14/30 months
Sept. 29, 1898,	" 15, "	" 21, "	4 "	Bronchial pneumonia..	2-7/30 "

Eighty-five cases requiring special treatment have been treated in the City Hospital and in private hospitals and by specialists, the children being brought from their country homes in various parts of this and other States for that purpose, as follows:

For defective and diseased eyes	37
For treatment of ears	3
For treatment of teeth	14
For surgical treatment and for appliances	15
For treatment of other diseases	16
Total	85

Cases not requiring special treatment are attended to by physicians where the children reside. In neighborhoods where we have a large number of children a liberal discount is made in charges for professional services.

The correspondence for the year was 6,700 communications received and 7,500 sent.

There were ten persons beside the General Agent in this department during the year, as follows:

Daniel F. Lynch, Agent.
George M. Hosmer, Agent.
Mrs. A. B. Dresser, Agent.
Miss Harriet A. Leavitt, Visitor.
Miss Mary E. Patterson, Visitor.
Miss Mary C. Haley, Visitor.
Miss Grace S. Hoogs, Visitor.
Miss Mary B. Young, Visitor.
Miss Mary J. Riley, Book-keeper.
Dean S. Cushing, Messenger.

In conclusion, permit me to thank you for the support and encouragement extended to me, and for the interest which you have at all times taken in the welfare of the minor wards of the city.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN E. McCARTHY,
General Agent.

REPORT ON PROBATIONERS FROM THE HOUSE OF REFORMATION.

BY GEORGE M. HOSMER.

MR. JOHN E. McCARTHY, *General Agent:*

DEAR SIR, — I herewith submit the following report on the condition and standing of the boys who have been released on probation from the House of Reformation at Rainsford Island and the House of Reformation at Deer Island, during the past and previous years, and who still are, or have been, under the supervision of this department at any time during the past year.

Boys on Probation at their own Homes.		
Conduct good	39	
Conduct fair	42	
Conduct bad	9	
	—	90
Boys Placed on Indenture.		
Conduct good	23	
Conduct fair	13	
Conduct bad	5	
	—	41
Self-supporting, neither indentured or at home		8
United States Navy		2
United States Army		2
Gone to relatives outside the State, with the consent of this department, and when last heard from doing well		9
With families that have moved away, leaving no address, and not yet located		7
Conduct bad and absconded		6
Conduct bad, and returned to the House of Reformation		12
Conduct bad, and committed to other institutions		11
Massachusetts School for Feeble Minded		2
Discharged on arriving at age		6
Carried forward		196

Brought forward	196
Discharged on account of sickness, requiring special treatment	1
Died	1
Total	198

During the past year five boys enlisted in the United States Army and Navy, four of whom are still in active service, as shown by the table above. One boy died from fever at Ponce, Porto Rico, while on duty with his regiment. This was the only death that occurred among the boys on probation during the year.

There are eighty-four boys who have regular employment where they receive wages. They are variously employed as follows:

Baker	1	Factories:		Longshoreman	1
Barber	2	Chair	1	Machinist	6
Bicycle repairer	1	Mattress	1	Messenger, Tel.	3
Boiler-maker	2	Picture frames	1	Milk team	1
Bootblack	1	Preserve	1	Musician	1
Clothing store	1	Rubber	1	Office boy	2
Confectioner	1	Shoe	6	Packing-house	1
Cooper	1	Shoe dressing	1	Painter	1
Cotton mill	2	Trunk	1	Paper store	1
Dry goods	7	Grocery	3	Printing office	8
Express	2	Ice wagon	1	Pedler	2
Farm	4	Ironmoulder	1	Ship yard	2
Upholsterer	1	Tinsmith	2	Waiters	5
Factories, button	2	Laborer	2	Total	84

During the early part of the past year the "Merit System" was inaugurated at the House of Reformation, making it possible for any boy to earn his release on probation by good conduct. This has resulted in a large increase in the number of boys released on probation, subject to visits from, and under the supervision of, agents of this department.

The following table will show the present standing of all boys released during the past year:

Present Condition of Boys Released on Probation from the House of Reformation during the past Year.

	Conduct good.	Conduct fair.	Conduct bad.	Returned to House of Reformation.	Committed to other institutions.	Absconded and not located.	Family moved and not located.	Totals.
At home, attending school	6	1	.....	3	.....	.....	2	12
At home, working	32	13	5	1	2	.....	.....	53
Indentured	9	8	5	5	1	3	.....	31
Self-supporting, neither indentured nor at home	1	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
United States Army	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
United States Navy	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total	50	25	12	9	3	3	2	104
Discharged on arriving at age								1
Discharged to parents, who moved out of the State								1
Discharged on account of sickness requiring special care								1
Total released during the year								107

NOTE.—Thirty-five fine cases released during the year and five cases discharged January 31 are not included in this table, which concerns only those released on probation. The addition of these figures gives the total in Table 1, on the report on the House of Reformation.

These figures indicate that at least seventy-five per cent. of the boys who have been placed on probation under the merit system have made earnest and successful efforts to profit by the training they have received while under the direct control of this department.

Thanking you for the constant encouragement and friendly advice I have received during the past year, I am

Yours respectfully,

GEORGE M. HOSMER, *Agent.*

REPORT OF THE SUMMER HOSPITAL FOR INFANTS.

BOSTON, February 1, 1899.

To the Trustees for Children :

As Superintendent of the Summer Hospital at Rainsford Island, I make my report to the Children's Institutions Department:

On June 9, 1898, the Summer Hospital was opened for the season, for sick infants under two and a half years of age.

The general plan of the hospital was practically the same as in the previous years, and consisted of the training of graduate nurses and nursery maids in caring for sick infants. The nurses were thoroughly drilled in an excellent food room to prepare the food for the patients, and under the supervision of skilled trained nurses to bathe and nurse sick infants. This part of the work is of the greatest importance to the community at large, and was much appreciated by the nurses. Dr. Joshua C. Hubbard, at the Hospital, and Dr. Joseph B. Howland, at the wharf in Boston, did most efficient work, and the good which was done to the sick infants of Boston was great and very satisfactory.

Especial thanks should be given to Miss C. W. Cayford and Miss H. W. Aubin, for the remarkably systematic work which they directed and accomplished in the varied details and emergencies arising in this kind of work.

The following report has been made to me by Dr. Hubbard, the Resident Physician:

SUMMER HOSPITAL, RAINSFORD ISLAND.

From June 9 to September 24, 1898.

Admitted		152
Discharged:		
Well	41	
Much improved	24	
Improved	18	
Not improved	10	
To other institutions	1	
Against advice	13	
Dead	45	
	——	152
Total number of days' stay in Hospital		3,157
Average number of days' stay		$20\frac{3}{4}$
Longest stay in Hospital	100 days.	
Shortest stay	2 hours.	
Mortality	29 per cent.	

The hospital was closed on September 24, 1898.

The work which this hospital has accomplished in the past three years is of unusual value, as it is the only place where sick infants of the poorer classes can be cared for

during the summer months, under provisions adapted for this especial class of cases.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. ROTCH,

Superintendent.

The total expense of the hospital for the season was $6,934.38, of which was expended for repairs	$157 23
For current expenses	6,777 15
	$6,934 38

Blank Forms Used by the Placing-Out Department.

CITY OF BOSTON.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN,
32 TREMONT STREET.

BOSTON, , 189 .

The Trustees for Children are desirous of obtaining such information as would justify them in placing a child from the Marcella-street Home, in the City of Boston, in the family of

and would earnestly request you to give them all the help in your power to judge wisely on the child's behalf. They need to know the undisguised facts in regard to the character, home life and surroundings of the family. Do you think that a child would find with them a thoroughly happy home, kindness and good moral training? Do you know of any drawbacks to this home as a place for a child to grow up in?

Fullest information in regard to the home is desired, and any facts you may see fit to give us relative to it. Your reply will be considered strictly confidential.

Soliciting an early reply, we are

Respectfully yours,

TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN,
per
JOHN E. MCCARTHY,
Agent.

1. *Is he a person of good character and temperate habits?*

2. *Is he a person in comfortable circumstances and of sufficient ability to properly provide for such a child?*

3. *What is his occupation and means of livelihood?*

4. *Of how many does the family consist? What are the ages of male members?*

5. *In your opinion would a placed with be under good influence and kindly treated?*

Local Visiting Agent.

REMARKS.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT. — TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN.

APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN TO BOARD

FROM

MARCELLA-STREET HOME.

Date of Application,
Name,
Street,
Town,
Railroad Station,
Married, single, or widow,
Do you keep boarders?
What Church do you attend?
Distance from Church and School,
Have you taken any children before? If so, from where?

Number in family. Age and Sex?
Occupation,
Do you keep hired help? Age and Sex?
Age and Sex of child for whom you apply,
Recommended by,

Signature of applicant,

(The following to be signed by Selectmen or Pastor.)

To the best of knowledge and belief, the above-named applicant is a good, kind person and suitable to have children to board.

Pastor
or
Selectmen
of

Visited, and approve this person and place.

Visiting Agent.

Date

Return to JOHN E. MCCARTHY, Agent, 32 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT. — TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN.

APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN.

Date,
Name of Applicant,
Town,
Street and No.,
Post-office,
R.R. Station,
Married, single, or widow,
Have you hired help?
Do you keep boarders? If so, whom? Sex and Age?
What Church do you attend?
Distance from School and Church,
Number in family, and age and sex of each,
Occupation,
Age and description of Child required. [State whether Boy or Girl.]

189 .

Personally visited and approve this person and place.

Visiting Agent.

Return to JOHN E. MCCARTHY, Agent, 32 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

SCHOOL REPORT.

age is a member of the family of

and has attended school for the term commencing
and ending

Has been absent days.
Has been tardy times.
Has been dismissed times.
Behavior,
Scholarship,
Grade.
Class.
Promoted at the end of this term?

(Signed by Teacher of School.)

[*Add any remarks upon the other side.*]

CITY OF BOSTON.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN,

32 TREMONT STREET.

INDENTURE.

BOSTON, 189 .

Mr.

DEAR

from the Marcella-street Home is placed in your charge as a member of your family, and we expect for the same training and care that you would give your own child, and ask that you will carefully attend to the accompanying directions.

Yours truly,
JOHN E. MCCARTHY,
Agent.

1. Children shall be taught to do such work as is suited to their age and strength. While attending school their board and clothing is considered sufficient compensation for the services rendered, but later wages may be paid according to agreement.

2. Children shall be sent regularly to school until they arrive at the age of fourteen years, as the law requires, and a report of their attendance shall be sent to the department, at No. 32 Tremont street, at the close of each school term, on blanks provided for the purpose. Children above the school age will be expected to attend school winters, whenever convenient.

3. Children shall receive religious instruction, attending the church of their own faith, whenever possible, and shall be taught the importance of truthfulness, honesty and purity, in word and deed.

4. Suitable recreation shall be given children in accordance with the best judgment of the family with whom they are placed, but the practice of going out evenings shall not be encouraged.

5. Children shall be provided with suitable and comfortable clothing for each season of the year, which shall be kept clean and in good repair, and subject to the inspection of the visitor.

6. It is expected and desired that each child will regularly correspond with some agent of the department, and that these letters will not be subject to the inspection of the family with whom the child is placed. All communication with parents or friends shall be forwarded through this agent.

7. Should a child be taken ill the department must be promptly notified. Simple remedies, such as would be used for one's own child in a similar case, may be used, but if the illness is serious and of a nature which requires immediate attention you are instructed to employ your family physician. Should it necessitate the continued care of a physician, you will receive instruction from the department. If after placing children out they prove delicate, it may be deemed wise to return them for hospital treatment, replacing them with stronger ones.

The object of these directions is to avoid large bills for medical attendance.

8. Should a child prove unfitted for a place, he may be removed, but on no account shall he be allowed to leave h place without the consent of the department. *Should this occur, no time shall be lost in notifying the department.*

CITY OF BOSTON.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES,

32 TREMONT STREET.

BOSTON, 189 .

Mr.

The Trustees for Children grant your application for the Temporary Custody of

a child under the charge of said Trustees, upon the following conditions:

That the child shall be properly fed, clothed and cared for; shall be sent to school thirty weeks each year while under fourteen years of age, and when over that age shall be sent to school winters; shall be taught some useful trade or occupation whereby the child may obtain a livelihood hereafter; shall at all times be kept under moral restraint, and shall not be denied religious instruction; and further, that you report on the health, conduct and occupation of the child at the office of the Trustees on the first days of January, April, July and October, in each year.

The Trustees still retain control, and will take the custody of the child whenever they are of the opinion that the interests of the child require them so to do.

Chairman Trustees for Children.

The undersigned hereby takes the Temporary Custody of the above-named child; will conform to the above-named conditions; will not prevent the child corresponding with the Agent of the said Trustees as often as the child desires so to do, and will give at least six days' notice before surrendering the custody of the child.

Signed_____

CITY OF BOSTON.

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN,

32 TREMONT STREET.

BOARDING.

BOSTON, 189 .

Mr.

DEAR

In placing with you from the Marcella-street Home, to board, we ask that he be regarded as a member of your family, receiving from you the care and training that you would desire for a child of your own, and we also ask your careful attention to the following directions.

Yours truly,

JOHN E. MCCARTHY,

Agent.

1. Children shall be fed upon good and nourishing food, sent early to bed, and at all times be kept clean and tidy.
2. You are expected to deal firmly, yet gently, with children placed in your care; to be patient with them, and to consider yourself responsible for their conduct while with you.
3. Children shall be given both moral and religious training, attending the church of their own faith, whenever possible, and especially shall they be taught to be truthful, honest and obedient in daily life.
4. Children of the school age must attend school regularly, staying out only by reason of illness. Reports of their attendance shall be sent to the department, at No. 32 Tremont street, at the close of each school term, on blanks provided for the purpose.
5. When old enough simple household duties, not too hard for the age and strength of a child, may be given them, that they may acquire habits of industry. These duties, however, shall not be allowed to interfere with their hours of recreation.

6. $2.00 per week will be paid for board of children under three years of age, and clothing will be furnished from this office, ordered on blanks provided for the purpose. Over this age, $2.00 per week will be paid, and shoes, but no other clothing, furnished. Special terms will be made in the case of delicate or defective children.

All clothing must be kept in good repair and subject to the inspection of the visitor. When children are removed from a place all clothing belonging to them must be taken with them, and it is expected that they will leave with as good a supply as when placed.

Usually not more than two children will be placed in a family.

7. All communications between children and their relatives shall be through the department.

8. Should a child be taken ill the department must be promptly notified. Simple remedies, such as would be used for one's own children in similar cases, may be used, but if the illness is serious, and of a nature which requires immediate attention, you are instructed to employ your family physician. Should it necessitate the continued care of a physician you will receive instructions from the department.

The object of these directions is to avoid large bills for medical attendance.

MEMORANDUM OF PHYSICIAN'S VISIT.

Visit of
Living with
Of
Date, 189 .
How long has the child been ill?

How long likely to be ill?

Disease,
Remarks:

Signature.

[COPY.]

TRUSTEES FOR CHILDREN.

32 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON.

In consideration of the services of John Doe, I, Richard Roe, of Cornfields, Mass., agree to pay J. E. McCarthy, Custodian, the sum of eight (8) dollars per month, in quarterly payments, for one year, to date from April 1, 1899, to April 1, 1900, deducting what the said John Doe may need for clothing and spending money.

(Signed.) RICHARD ROE.
(Witnessed.) MARY ROE.

An itemized account of all money expended for clothing or advanced to the boy must be signed by the boy, and sent to this office with each payment.

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